



**Town of Acton  
Open Space Committee**

Meeting Minutes

May 02 2025

8:00 AM VIRTUAL and in Person

Acton Town Hall Room 9, 472 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720

**Committee Members Present:** Karen O'Neill (Chairing Meeting Co-Chair, Full Member), Bettina Abe (Full Member), Matt Mostoller (Full Member, AWD), Terry Maitland (Co-Chair), Brandon Comstock (Full Member),

**Committee Members Absent:** Michaela Moran (Planning Board Liaison), Amy Green (Full Member),

**Non-Committee Members Present:** Ian Bergemann (Community Conservation Specialist), Susan Mitchell-Hardt (ACT), Meredith Houghton (SVT), Corey Godfrey (AWD)

**Meeting Open**

8:05am. Karen O'Neill, Co-Chair called the meeting to order and conducted roll call.

**I. Regular Business**

**1. Review meeting minutes of March and April 2025**

- a. 8:05am. No minutes to review.

**2. Status of property Conservation Restrictions (any changes)**

- a. 8:06am. Meredith Houghton provided an update on the Wetherbee/Moritz Conservation Restriction (CR). She reported that the state had returned comments, which were minimal, indicating positive progress. The committee was awaiting one final exhibit, a plan, before sending the CR back to the state for approval. Once approved, the next steps would involve obtaining signatures from the Conservation Commission, Select Board, and Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT). Susan Mitchell-Hardt mentioned that she would like to bring the oxen back to celebrate the property's opening.

**II. New Special Business**

**1. Status update of the Wetherbee/Moritz CR**

- a. 8:10am. Meredith Houghton provided an update on the CR.

**2. Updated on any other land other parcels**



- a.** 8:11am. Susan Mitchell-Hardt reported on the Hennessey Farm at 88 Prospect Street. She had checked in with Peggy Hebert, the property owner. Susan noted that Joe, Peggy's son, had taken over ownership of the house on 2 acres and possibly the entire property. Joe expressed interest in keeping the land in farming but was currently working six days a week, making it challenging to consider conservation options.

Ian Bergemann provided an update on the community gardens, mentioning that oversight had transitioned to the Department of Public Works (DPW) and himself following Kim Clark's departure. He noted some challenges, including language barriers with some gardeners. Ian reported on a recent cleanup effort at North Acton Community Farm, where around 20 people removed two truckloads of trash. He also mentioned ongoing work at Morrison Farm and plans to address issues at the Hebert Community Farm. He is working with Matt Mostoller on the trail for 549 Main Street and will soon develop a trail for Wetherbee.

Susan Mitchell-Hardt provided an update on the 4 Piper Lane Conservation Restriction. She expressed gratitude to Olivia for reaching out to landowners 6 Piper Road and working on a solution for rock piles that a contractor had mistakenly placed on town-owned land. Susan and her team had conducted a site visit to determine which rocks were on the landowner's property and which were on town land. They were preparing a report for the Town, where it will suggest installing no dumping signs.

Matt Mostoller informed the committee about ongoing discussions with a property owner in Boxborough regarding the preservation of an 8-acre parcel on the Acton town line. He noted that while Boxborough had initially considered taking the matter to town meeting, they had since withdrawn that plan. Matt explained that both the Boxborough Conservation Trust and Conservation Commission had passed on the opportunity, believing the land to be naturally protected. However, Matt expressed a more cautious view based on his experience in Acton. He mentioned that the water district board was uncomfortable with the idea of buying land in another community, so they were exploring partnership options, potentially including a Conservation Restriction or assisting the town in purchasing the land.

### **3. Next Meeting/ Meeting Times/ Meeting Location**

- a.** 8 am, Room 9, June 6<sup>th</sup> 2025
- b.** 8:28am. Karen O'Neill, the current chair, announced that her term would end in June. She expressed her intention to remain on the committee but opened the floor for anyone interested in taking on the role of chair. She suggested a three-year rotation for the position. The committee members expressed appreciation for



Karen's leadership and discussed the potential for rotation. Brandon Cornstalk offered to provide technical support for the next chair.

### **III. Consent Items**

1. None

### **IV. Next Meeting:**

1. June 6, 2025

**a.** 8:30am. Karen O'Neill, asked for a motion to adjourn, Terry Maitland motioned to close and Karen O'Neill took a roll call vote. All voted yes Meeting closed.