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## OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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The Open Space Committee members are fully engaged beyond the context of the committee—working for greater housing diversity through the Master Plan process, as members of the Heritage Commission and Conservation Commission, advocating for sustainable communities within the context of a changing climate. All are linked with protecting open space with demonstrated natural resource value—agricultural soils, waterways and wetlands and their protective buffers, trails and scenic values, as well as room to roam for wildlife.

Working for quality of life for townspeople present and future takes many forms. The tried-and-true model of compact village surrounded by rural open space remains the goal, versus sprawl—residential as well as the more familiar commercial. Just as the Master Plan identifies areas appropriate for commercial/residential development, it identifies areas appropriate for permanent open space.

The Committee developed a website that tells stories of land conservation in town, the many families that have conserved their land as well as land conserved and owned by the town, and by area land trusts like the Harris Center. We hope you will spend some time exploring the site, and then perhaps explore some of the trails and lands described there. The internet address is easy: [peterboroughopenspace.org](http://peterboroughopenspace.org)

The Select Board meeting room at the Town House has photos of conservation lands in town, including photos of people instrumental in conserving them. Shown here are two favorites of longtime Select Board member Liz Thomas. She stands before an ancient black gum tree on the land she and her husband Stephen conserved, over 400 acres. Black gums (a.k.a. tupelo) are an exciting finding this far north. The other is Liz walking the trail at the town's Cunningham Pond town beach, a property she gave to the town when Peterborough was one of the few towns around without a town beach. As usual, a dog is at her side.

Peterborough has a long, strong tradition of land conservation that includes many families like the Thomases. The Open Space Committee meets the second Monday of each month. Visitors are always welcome, as is conversation about land conservation.

Ed Henault, Chair  
Anne Huberman  
Joel Huberman  
Debby Kaiser  
Francie Von Mertens



*Photo credit: Joanna Eldredge Morrissey*