
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

In addition to volunteering on the Open Space Committee, members also serve on other town committees including the Energy Committee, Heritage Committee, Budget Committee, and Conservation Commission, all relevant to fostering a sustainable community. Ongoing Open Space Committee focus includes outreach to owners of land with exceptional natural resource value with the goal of explaining that conservation of those resources can be a viable option—meeting both landowner and conservation goals.

Conservation comes in many forms, and the Open Space Committee website gives examples here in town of all of them. Visit the website at peterboroughopenspace.org. Stories told there go back centuries to the Cuningham family (one "n"), farmers in the Cunningham Pond region. A more recent story: the Cunningham Pond town beach area donated by Liz Thomas in 1993, enabled by proceeds from her best-selling "The Hidden Life of Dogs."

Even more recent (this century!): The Hiroshi Conservation Land in the NW corner of town honors Hiroshi Hayashi, longtime chef/owner of Latacarta Restaurant in the movie theater building downtown. He always dreamt of conserving the land he loved.

Money was raised (town funds, grants, and private donations) to do just that. For another story, a neighborhood and Conservation Commission initiative conserved the 150-acre Fremont Field town conservation land on Old Jaffrey Road, including a one-mile trail through a mix of habitats hard to beat.

Open Space Committee members pictured here plucked milkweed pods in the field after monarch butterfly caterpillars had transformed into butterflies and headed south to Mexico. The annual pod pluck is a good neighbor policy, and here's why: Milkweed in bloom is a major nectar source for pollinators; its leaves are the only food for monarch caterpillars; but its seeds cast to the wind are not welcomed in extensive neighboring pastureland. Understandably. And so we pluck. (Volunteers always welcome, for this and other projects.)

Every parcel colored green on the town's open space map has a story. Most are on the website along with photos of land and people. Stories of the land add context to a town. We offer them with great care for our community, past, present, and future.

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

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*Open Space Committee workgang at Fremont Field town
conservation land.*

Photo by Joel Huberman