
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE 2018 REPORT

The Open Space Committee (OSC) is charged with implementing goals set forth in the Town's Master Plan Open Space chapter. These include identifying land with highest natural resource value and alerting landowners to the many available forms of land conservation. The OSC works closely with the Conservation Commission.

MAJOR PROJECTS IN 2018:

1. Funding from the Town's Land Acquisition Capital Reserve fund to help cover landowner expenses relating to placing a conservation easement on 85 acres on Old Town Farm Road.

To date, 39 families have conserved their land by means of a conservation easement—a permanent deeded restriction that maintains private ownership but limits future development, conserving the land for future generations as the family has known and enjoyed it. Town funding is available to help families conserve land with high conservation value.

2. Worked with the Conservation Commission to approve major funding to assist conservation of over 100 acres across from the town beach on Cunningham Pond. The project is an great example of neighborhood conservation. Pond neighbors formed a group a few years ago with the goal of purchasing and conserving the Peterson land on the Pond. They partnered with the Monadnock Conservancy, a land trust with an impressive record of land conservation including Temple Mountain just up the road from the Peterson land. Pond neighbor Jim Callihan and Conservancy head Ryan Owens presented a compelling case for support, and \$250,000 from the capital reserve fund was approved.

PROJECTS FOR 2019

Early in 2019, the OSC and Conservation Commission presented the Cunningham Pond project to the Select Board, co-agent to expend the Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund, and the board approved the grant unanimously.

Fundraising for the Cunningham Pond conservation will be ongoing in 2019. OSC members are available to answer questions, and, of course, to encourage donations. The Conservancy contact information: Anne McBride at 357-0600; info@monadnockconservancy.org.

Ed Henault, Chair Anne Huberman

Joel Huberman Debby Kaiser

Francie Von Mertens