



ASHLAND OPEN SPACE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2026
Via Zoom

Ashland
Open Space and
Recreation
Committee

Members present: Ashwini Chitnavais, Jeanne Horner, Marty Ring, Judith Sallet, Roberta Soolman, Jeanne Walker, Greg Wands

Guests present: Susan Thorne and Tony Quattrone

Roberta Soolman,
Chairperson

Ashwini Chitnavais

Martin Ring

Judith Sallet

Jeanne Walker

Greg Wands

1. WELCOME

Ms. Soolman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 1/13/26

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

3. FRANKLAND ROAD SOLAR PROJECT

Ms. Thorne and Mr. Quattrone provided an update on their communications and activities. Ms. Soolman said she would write to the Ashland Select Board on February 12 to ask them when they sent their letter and to whom it was sent. At the Select Board meeting on February 4, they indicated they would send their letter to:

- Agilitas (solar operators)
- Prospective buyer of 0 Cross St (Domenic)
- Ashland Conservation Commission
- Ashland Building Commissioner
- Ashland Board of Health
- Hopkinton Director of Municipal Inspection Services (McWhite)
- Hopkinton Open Space and Preservation Commission

4. OSRP DRAFT

Ms. Solomon, the Conservation Agent sent the OSRP draft to the committee on February 5. Ms. Soolman asked the committee to read through the OSRP before the committee meeting to discuss edits and recommendations. The committee decided that it would take too long and be too difficult to compile 7 different sets of edits. Ms. Chitnavais suggested that members take different sections to review. Members volunteered for different sections and were asked to be ready to discuss their edits and recommendations at the next meeting on February 17.



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5. UPDATES

Land Stewardship (Mr. Wands):

- The hay bailer needs to be fixed but the seller can't fix it right now in the snow.
- The skiing conditions are great – best since 2015 – and there have been a few people out skiing.

Conservation Commission (Mr. Wands):

- Gabriel Toledo, a former Conservation Commission member is back in Ashland and will be rejoining the commission.
- They expect to close the hearing on 60-61 Waverly Street soon in March. The peer reviewer has been very helpful and the developer has been
- compliant regarding the no-disturb zone and vernal pools.
- 10-60 Main Street has filed their Notice of Intent and the hearing begins on March 2. It's a complicated project due to the river front, flood plain and Nyanza.

Community Preservation Committee (Mr. Wands)

- There are several proposals: Federated Church and the Town Forest Committee.

Stormwater (Ms. Walker)

- The town engineer left, and it's not clear if someone else will be hired.
- The stormwater management compliance tasks have been distributed to non-engineers.
- The mandates are becoming increasingly expensive. There is not consensus about how to pay the increase costs (e.g., a fee increase, grants etc.).
- The town can be fined up to \$3 million/year if they are not in compliance.
- Those who attended the training said there were a few changes but it's basically the same.
- There was a question as to whether we needed to take the Conflict of Interest training again and, if so, when.

Upper Charles Trail Committee (Mr. Ring)

- There's a little bit of activity, but it's unclear where it will lead.
- He went to a meeting with Rob Scherer (AUCT chair) and Tony Lewis (AUCT vice-chair), Diane Mortensen and a consulting engineering company that's a partner to Alta, the original consultants for the trail route. The town may employ an engineer to do some of the trail and spend some of the money that will expire at the end of December 2026.
- The committee is having a party for Joel Arbeitman, the chair of the committee from its inception to his recent resignation, to thank him for his dedication. They plan to obtain citations from House and Senate for his many years of work.



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Open Meeting Law Training on 2/4/26

- Those who attended said there were a few changes, but it was basically the same.
- Members asked if we had to take the Conflict of Interest training again and, if so, when.

6. NEXT MEETING: February 17 and March 10

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Ring and seconded by Ms. Walker, the committee voted 7-0-0 to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Soolman