

# Open Space Acquisition Commission

2 Spring Street  
Marion, MA 02738

## Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2026  
6:00 PM

Meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting with participants online pursuant to *An Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency*. The meeting was recorded.

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Committee Members Present: John Rockwell, Norm Hills, Tom Friedman, Adele Sands, Kitty de Groot

Guests: Carol Molander, Shaun Walsh

### AGENDA:

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM
2. **Approval of minutes from December 4, 2025** – Motion to approve minutes made by Friedman and seconded by Sands. Minutes approved by unanimous vote.
3. **Point Road Path**
  - a. **Recommendations on improvements to cover material.** Rockwell noted receipt of an email on Jan 6, 2026 from Walsh with questions and comments on resurfacing of the path.

Rockwell recapped the history of funding of the path project. The project was funded through the Community Preservation Act (CPA). At the time of the application (2019), MOSAC had a professional engineer on the committee, and it was assumed that the engineering, permitting, and design and engineering work, including locating property boundaries, would be done in-house. Per the application, the path design was to be an 8-foot wide compacted gravel subgrade overlain with a 3-inch layer of compacted stone dust. Compaction was described as two passes over gravel & crushed stone. A standard 20% contingency fee was added to cover unanticipated issues and changes in market dynamics. The total funds approved for the project was \$268,000.

Not all the funds have been expended and Rockwell offered to ask for CPA at the meeting on January 9, 2026 if remaining funds (including contingency funds) could be used to hire a professional engineer. Rockwell noted that he was not sure if the remaining funds was sufficient to complete the work on the path.

Committee members agreed that Rockwell should approach the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) with the request. Rockwell to report back to this committee following discussion. Rockwell noted that if the CPC does not approve the request, then a new CPA funding request would need to be prepared to complete the work; the deadline for applications is February 17, 2026.

- b. **Status of Safety Fence work** – The fence work is complete and by all accounts it looks good. The contractor has submitted an invoice for payment (dated Dec 18, 2025) in the amount of \$7,350.00. Friedman made a motion to approve payment; motion seconded by Sands. Motion approved by four members and de Groot abstained.

Rockwell noted that he received an invoice from Stearns Irrigation on Nov. 24, 2025 in the amount of \$72.53. The invoice was for three 6-inch x 6-inch blind tee single wall pipe couplings. Friedman noted that the pipes at the site project upward and are very exposed. He is concerned that pipes could be damaged during mowing. Rockwell asked Friedman to contact Mr. Dickerson to see what could be done.

- c. Friedman made a motion to approve the Stern's Irrigation invoice; motion seconded by Hills. Motion approved by four members and de Groot abstained.

#### 4. **Great Swamp Fire Road Maintenance**

- a. **Status update on DPW help with maintenance** – Friedman noted that there is still some clearing to be done and assumes the slowdown is related to weather. Friedman will report any updates at the next meeting.

#### 5. **Grassi Bog**

- a. **Update on DPW help with maintenance at Grassi Bog** – Rockwell reported that he had found a meeting minutes from the early 2000s that stated “Mr. Bryant reported that an Official Memorandum has been issued establishing that the OSAC [open space acquisition committee] is not responsible for upkeep and maintenance of public open space. The established practice of having such tasks discharged by the DPW and included in their budget will continue. Mr. Pickles and DPW Head Rob Zora concur.” Hills asked if the Office Memorandum is in town files; Rockwell asked Hills if he could go through records to see what he can find.

Carol Molander shared that she often goes to Grassi Bog for walks, as in her opinion it is one of the nicest areas in town to walk. She did note that the parking lot needs some repair since it is full of potholes, and that the entrance is treacherous. Sands also noted that there are several hunters/trucks using area and are creating ruts. Both upper and lower entrances have soft spots.

Rockwell indicated that he believes there may be some conservation restrictions that were part of the Wetland Preservation Program that may impact what work can be done on the parking and entrances. Rockwell will check the records and report back to the committee.

Rockwell also noted that in the compatible use form completed for the project included two gates at the entrances. However, there are no posts to install the gates; will need 4-in x 7-foot pressure treated posts. Friedman will check to see if he can obtain a gift of the posts. Freidman will also contact Mr. Dickerson to see what can be done with the parking areas.

Rockwell noted that he is trying to find someone to cut vegetation on the upper dike and complete maintenance as described in the 2012 Wetland Restoration Management Plan prepared by NRCS. He reached out to two engineers to discuss options. However, the phone number for one would not connect and he is waiting to hear back from the other person. Discussions will continue once feedback is received. de Groot suggested contacting Buzzards Bay Collation (BBC) to obtain information on the work they conducted at The Bogs. de Groot to contact BBC.

Sands asked about possibility of organizing an Arbor Day event (April 24<sup>th</sup>) at Grassi Bog. Sands will pursue options.

6. **MOSAC Property Maintenance.** Freidman will ask Dickerson if his 2026 budget included maintenance work on open space properties.
7. **Shared Use Path (Update relative to MOSAC parcel)** – Rockwell indicated that he met with Town Manager and Town Council, and the Executive Office of Energy and Environment’s (EEA) Division of Conservation Services (DCS) sent an email to Rockwell; John responded and is awaiting DCS decision.
  - a. **Annual Report Submittal.** Rockwell drafted the 2025 annual report on open space in Marion for review. Committee members questioned the purpose of the annual report; Hills indicated the report should focus on what occurred in 2025 and not include information that is already on the Committee’s website. Rockwell felt that residents of the town would be interested in information on all the open space in the town. Format of future annual reports will be reassessed for the 2026 report. A motion to approve the 2025 annual report was made by de Groot; the motion was seconded by Friedman. Motion approved by four members and Hills voted no.
8. The motion carried by majority vote.
9. **February Meeting (date and location).** The next meeting will be February 5<sup>th</sup> via Zoom only. The Committee agreed to start the February meeting and future meetings at 6 PM. Rockwell to revise the Zoom calendar to reflect the 6 PM start time. de Groot to prepare a

summary of dates of the future 2026 meetings and provide to the Committee; once approved, de Groot will have it posted on the website.

- 10. Adjourn** – motion to adjourn made by de Groot; motion seconded by Hills and approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Minutes prepared by Kitty de Groot, Clerk

Approved: February 5, 2026