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AMESBURY CITY CLERK

**CITY OF AMESBURY
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN**

SPONSORED BY: Councilor Sherwood BILL No. 2016-028

An Ordinance to Establish an Open Space and Recreation Committee for the City of Amesbury

Summary: *An Ordinance establishing an Open Space and Recreation Committee for the purpose of supporting the maintenance, updating, and implementation of Amesbury's Open Space and Recreation Plan.*

Whereas it is through thoughtful planning and active stewardship that Amesbury's open spaces, critical plant and animal habitats, neighborhood parks, and quality outdoor recreation facilities will remain a part of our communities' landscapes;

Whereas planning this "green infrastructure" of water supply, land, working farms and forests, viable wildlife habitats, parks, passive and active recreation areas, community gardens, youth and adult sports, trails, and greenways is as important to the economic future of Amesbury as planning for schools, roads, water, and wastewater infrastructure, and;

Whereas the City of Amesbury maintains an *Open Space and Recreation Plan* for the planning and prioritization of open space and recreational facilities;

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. **Purpose:** The City hereby establishes an Open Space Committee to implement the Open Space and Recreation Plan of the City of Amesbury by maintaining and updating the Plan itself and by supporting the City in the implementation of the action plans contained therein.

This may include but is not limited to:

- Strategic long term planning by contributing to the Amesbury Open Space and Recreation Plan, including:
 - Development and updating of criteria (such as value of resources as wildlife habitat, significance to maintaining a safe public water supply, and value to

- the community for recreational purposes) for use in identifying priority open spaces for preservation, acquisition, or improvement;
 - Identification and prioritization of critical open, recreational, and watershed spaces for preservation, acquisition, or improvement based on such criteria; and
 - Inventory of existing public and privately held open space resources and of access to open space resources, including a review of the state of current facilities and the identification of capital improvements;
 - Development of trails and access points to open space, for the purpose of public recreation;
 - Community education through informational fliers, public forums, and field trips;
 - Coordinate with Intra-State organizations that encourage open space preservation;
 - Increasing Amesbury's open space by informing local landowners of, and helping to secure land preservation;
 - Engaging in conservation advocacy and campaigning for preservation and funding;
 - Support for active open space stewardship, including trail-building, trail maintenance, and signage;
 - And, participating in the review of any properties that become available to the City of Amesbury under Chapter 61, 61a, and 61b of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
2. **Partnership:** The Open Space and Recreation Committee is encouraged to partner with other official bodies of the City (including the Conservation Commission) as well as local organizations, leagues, neighborhood groups, and clubs to meet its mission.
 3. **Membership:** The Committee shall consist of up to 7 members and be chaired by a member elected from among the members and shall be subject to the general committee provisions of Rule 11-D. Up to two (2) of the Committee members shall be a City Councilor (as appointed by the City Council President), one (1) of the Committee members shall be a member of the Conservation Commission, and the remaining members will be appointed in accordance with Section 2-3 of the Amesbury Home Rule Charter.
 4. **Quorum:** A majority of appointed members serving on the committee shall constitute a quorum and no meeting shall be continued without a quorum being present, unless a subcommittee has been established.
 5. **Authorities and Responsibilities:** The Open Space Committee shall act as an advisory committee to the mayor, city council, municipal boards and the general public on matters concerning open space and recreation and shall have no budgetary powers. The City will consult with the Open Space and Recreation Committee in the regular review and updating of the City's Open Space and Recreation Plan.
 6. **Dissolution of the Parks and Recreation Commission:** The scope of the Parks and Recreation Commission is redundant with the larger scope and mission of the Open Space and Recreation Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission is hereby dissolved.

[Attach relevant supporting documentation for the Order prior to submitting for Mayor's signature]

