

CITY OF AMESBURY IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN

SPONSORED BY: Councilor Sherwood BILL No. 2016-028

At the meeting of the Amesbury of the Amesbury City Council held on May 10, 2016 in the City Hall Auditorium the following action was taken:

An Ordinance to Establish an Open Space, Natural Resources and Trails Committee for the City of Amesbury

Summary: The City of Amesbury is fortunate to have a strong tradition of open space, natural resources, and trails preservation, with over 22 miles of trails and over 1,000 acres of open space. If properly planned and managed these assets present a distinct advantage to the City's quality of life as they engage the residents throughout the community. Toward this end this ordinance *establishes the Amesbury Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) for the purpose of enhancing the City of Amesbury quality of life for its citizens by providing guidance, planning, preservation, enhancement, and support for the most optimum use of City open space, natural resource and trail assets for everyone.*

Whereas it is through thoughtful planning and active stewardship that Amesbury's open spaces, critical plant and animal habitats, neighborhood parks, and quality outdoor passive recreational resources 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 recreation areas, community gardens, trails, and greenways is important to the economic future of Amesbury and;

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

Therefore, 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, Natural Resources and Trails 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:

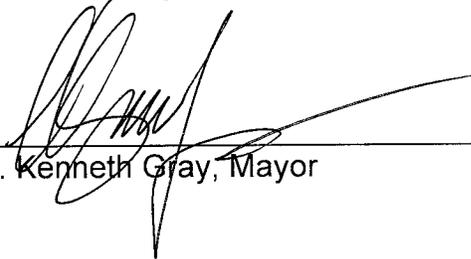
- Strategic long term planning by contributing to the Amesbury Open Space and Recreation Plan, including:
 - Development and updating of criteria for use in identifying priority open spaces for preservation, acquisition, or improvement;
 - Identification and prioritization of critical open, recreational, and watershed spaces for preservation, acquisition, or improvement based on such criteria;
 - 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;
 - Incorporate open space planning and utilization into the planning and use of other cultural assets;
 - Assist in the research into and documentation of the Committee's activities;
 - 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 *Committee* is encouraged to partner with other official bodies of the City (including the Conservation Commission) as well as the Chamber of Commerce, 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) shall be a member of the Conservation Commission, one (1) shall be a member of the Planning Board, and the remaining members will be appointed in accordance with Section 2-3 of the Amesbury Home Rule Charter.
 4. Establishment of Bylaws: The Committee must, by its own vote, establish rules for its own order.
 5. 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.
 6. Authorities and Responsibilities: The 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 Committee in the regular review and updating of the City's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Councilor Sickorez moved to approve 2016-028 An Ordinance to Establish an Open Space and Recreation Committee for the City of Amesbury as amended by the Ordinance Committee. Councilor McClure seconded. Roll Call Vote – 9 Yes

Witness my hand and seal for the City of Amesbury this 12th day of May, 2016



Bonnijo Kitchin, City Clerk



C. Kenneth Gray, Mayor

5-13-2016

Date