

APPENDIX C: PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the year-long process of updating the West Boylston Open Space and Recreation Plan the committee received comments informally from many sources through personal contacts and direct mail and emails. These suggestions and questions were responded to and incorporated into this document.

The Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan Update was made available for review on the Town's web site for over 90 days. There were 522 page requests to view the draft plan page which lists the document and figures available. The draft plan was downloaded 103 times. Various figures were downloaded too for a total of 527 times, with no comments submitted to a special mailbox set up by the town for this purpose.

Multiple draft versions of this update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan were distributed to the Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Conservation Commission, and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC). Letters of support from these groups are included herein.

The Draft update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan were distributed on May 29, 2008 to the Board of Health, Water District, Department of Public Works, Building Inspector, Zoning Board of Appeals, Economic Development Committee, Parks Facilities Committee, West Boylston Historical Committee, West Boylston Land Trust, and Wachusett Greenways. A distribution list and comments received are noted below. Most of the comments were incorporated into the initial versions through working with these boards and commissions, so that there were very few actual comments on the Draft Update.

The minutes for the public hearing on June 12, 2008 are included in Appendix B. The Public Hearing was very sparsely attended, with only a single attendee. His only question was whether the committee had considered the open space connections to adjacent towns like Holden. The Committee responded that the Plan stresses regional connections with respect to open space and showed the Figures and descriptions addressing this. Much of this is included in the Estimated Habitats and BioMaps prepared by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Greenprint Map prepared by the Massachusetts Watershed Coalition in Leominster.

This update was forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for their vote of support on June 26, 2008. The Open Space and Recreation Plan Update was reviewed at a second public hearing with the Board of Selectmen on July 16, 2008. The meeting minutes are included in Appendix B, and the major questions revolved around the methods to assist farmers and to encourage farming in Town.

**West Boylston Open Space and Recreation Plan Update
2008 Distribution List**

Local:

Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Planning Board
Conservation Commission
Parks Facilities Committee
West Boylston Historical Committee
West Boylston Land Trust
West Boylston Water District
Department of Public Works
Building Inspector
Zoning Board of Appeals
Economic Development Committee
Board of Health

Regional:

Holden Open Space Implementation Committee
Sterling Open Space Committee
Boylston Open Space Committee
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
Wachusett Greenways
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Water Supply, Wachusett Reservoir Section

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CHRISTOPHER A. RUCHO, SELECTMAN
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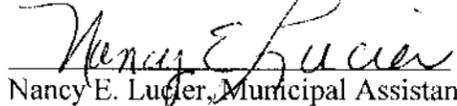
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON
127 HARTWELL STREET
WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01583

CERTIFICATE OF VOTE

At a duly held meeting of the Board of Selectmen on July 16, 2008, the Board held a public hearing on the proposed revisions to the Open Space and Recreation Plan and following the hearing voted to support the Open Space and Recreation Plan as presented by the Open Space Advisory Committee,

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy E. Lucier, Municipal Assistant

12 August 2008

Jennifer Jillson Soper
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Soper:

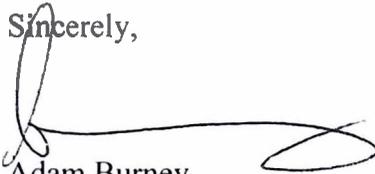
The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is writing this letter in support of the Town of West Boylston and its recently completed Open Space & Recreation Plan. The all-volunteer Open Space Committee is to be commended for all of its hard work in putting this Plan together.

The Open Space Committee has done a very thorough job and the final document appears fully compliant with the standards for such plans as promulgated by your office. West Boylston was an active participant in our 2003 trail investigation study entitled, North Subregion Inter-Community Trail Connection Feasibility Study. West Boylston's Open Space Plan will provide the Town with the opportunity to pursue some of the trail ideas contained in our study, as well as protect critical land areas from future development and/or over-development.

Please consider this letter to be a demonstration of CMRPC's support for the Plan and the process used to develop it. We find West Boylston's Plan to be fully consistent with CMRPC's Regional Open Space & Recreation Plan as well as the conservation priorities outlined in our 2020 Growth Strategy for Central Massachusetts.

The Town of West Boylston will be well served by having a State-approved up-to-date Plan for the provision of recreation facilities and programs, as well as the preservation and protection of its valuable open spaces and natural resources.

Sincerely,


Adam Burney
Associate Land Use Planner



THE PLANNING BOARD OF WEST BOYLSTON
MIXTER OFFICES • 120 PRESCOTT STREET
WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01583

July 9, 2008

Dr. Robert Tashjian, Chair
Open Space and Recreation Update Committee
West Boylston Town Hall
127 Hartwell Street
West Boylston, MA 01583

RE: 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Dear Dr. Tashjian and Members of the Open Space and Recreation Update Committee:

Members of the Planning Board reviewed the 2008 Update of the West Boylston Open Space and Recreation Plan dated May 23, 2008.

This is an aggressive document that addresses many important issues of the Town of West Boylston. We have reviewed the document and are in support of your committee proceeding with acceptance and implementation of its contents.

The Planning Board urges the Update Committee to make every effort to coordinate and implement these recommendations that are contained in this document. We applaud your efforts to provide planning to the Town in its efforts to provide safe and varied open space and recreational opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important document, and if you need further clarification, please contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Patricia Halpin
Patricia Halpin, Chair
West Boylston Planning Board

Cc: Leon Gaumont, Town Administrator