

**APPENDIX E:**

**LETTERS OF COMMENT FROM TOWN BOARDS  
AND MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**



Office of the  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
272 Main Street  
Townsend, Massachusetts 01469

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To Karen


Robert Plamondon, *Chairman*  
Andrew J. Sheehan,  
*Town Administrator*

Sue Lisio, *Vice-Chairman*

Nicholas Thaineimer, *Clerk*  
Office (978) 597-1701  
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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Open Space & Recreation Committee

FROM: Board of Selectmen  
Andrew J. Sheehan, Town Administrator 

DATE: March 6, 2012

SUBJ.: Open Space & Recreation Plan  
Selectmen comments

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The Board of Selectmen has reviewed the Open Space & Recreation Plan, paying particular attention to the Seven-Year Action Plan. The Plan provides a wonderful summary of the Town's open space and recreation amenities and the elements that make Townsend such a special place. The action plan is aggressive and well thought out, and will position the Town to maintain its character and environmental attributes well into the future.

The following are specific comments on the Seven-Year Action Plan:

Goal A: Maintain high quality drinking waters both now and in the future for the residents of Townsend.

- Objective 4, low salt areas: it is recommended to add Mass. Dept. of Transportation (MADOT) as a possible partner.

Goal B: Ensure the quality, vibrancy, and continued usage of the Squannacook River and its tributaries.

- Objective 1, public access: the Public Access Board of the MADFW is a possible partner. Historically they have been a source of funds for construction of access facilities/launches.
- Objective 3, protect land abutting the Squannacook River: in addition to outright acquisitions of land, acquisitions of interests in land can be a less costly alternative. Conservation restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions, easements, and purchases of development rights may be less costly and provide the same benefits.

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- The Squan-a-Tissit Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a possible partner for many of the Goal B objectives.

Goal C: Protect and maintain the quality of all surface waters in Townsend, including wetlands.

- No comments

Goal D: Retain the natural character and natural heritage of Townsend

- Objective 1, develop village areas: the Land Use Department should be included as a responsible party as its involvement will be critical in a process that will take many years to complete.
- Objective 4, vernal pools: consider acquisitions of interests in land (CRs, easements, etc.) in addition to outright acquisition.
- Objective 5, protect and maintain agricultural lands: in addition to outright acquisitions of land, acquisitions of interests in land can be a cheaper alternative. Conservation restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions, easements, life estates, and purchase of development rights may be less costly and provide the same benefits.
- Objective 6, pride of place: a well-publicized "pretty committee" is an excellent idea. Often businesses compete for the bragging rights and free publicity, and the friendly competition often raises the bar among businesses.

Goal E: Provide increased access to state and town owned lands deemed to hold conservation or recreation value.

- Objective 1, public access to Harbor Pond: the Public Access Board of the MADFW is a possible partner. Historically they have been a source of funds for construction of access facilities/launches.

Goal F: Develop and maintain active recreation facilities and maintain conservation lands.

- Objective 1, volunteer coordinator: many communities have had success with stewardship or friends groups assuming significant responsibility for maintenance of open spaces. Pepperell, Harvard, Carlisle, Acton, and Chelmsford are communities with established, successful programs.

Goal G: Establish a linked system of open space/recreation available to town residents.

- Objectives 1-3: as noted above acquiring interests in land is another option worth exploring.

Goal H: Improve the school/town relationship with regard to recreational facility usage and maintenance.

- No comments

Goal I: Provide information to the public regarding recreation facilities and open space.

- No comments

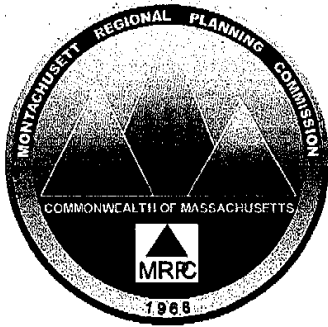
Goal J: Generate revenue from recreation facilities and open space to offset loss of tax monies.

- No comments

The Board of Selectmen thanks you for the opportunity to review the draft Open Space & Recreation Plan and provide comments. We also congratulate and thank the Committee for the time and effort you have devoted to our town.



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# MONTACHUSETT

## REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

1427R Water Street Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420  
(978) 345-7376 FAX (978) 348-2490 Email: [mrpc@mrpc.org](mailto:mrpc@mrpc.org)

Attention: Karen Chapman, Land Use Coordinator  
Town of Townsend  
272 Main Street  
Townsend, MA 01469

The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission's (MRPC) is responding for comment in regards to the Town of Townsend's 2012 update of the Townsend Open Space and Recreation Plan. The plan contains all the required sections according to the Open Space Guidebook published by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEOEA) and is well put together. However some elements within the plan still need to be addressed.

According to the Open Space Guidebook the following maps are required and are currently missing within the draft submitted to the MRPC; the Environmental Justice Map, Soils and Geologic Features Map, Unique Features with Scenic Features Map, and the Water Resources Mapping is partially completed. The last element required that is also missing from the draft is the ADA Access Self-Evaluation.

Thank you and if you have any questions pertaining to MRPC's review of the document, please contact Chantell Fleck ([cfleck@mrpc.org](mailto:cfleck@mrpc.org)) at (978) 345-7376 Ext. 304 and John Hume ([jhume@mrpc.org](mailto:jhume@mrpc.org)) at (978) 345-7376 Ext. 302. We look forward to the Town of Townsend having a complete updated Open Space and Recreation Plan very soon.

Sincerely,



John Hume  
Planning and Development Director