

Town of Scarborough Open Space Ad-Hoc Committee

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 | 9:00 – 11:00 am | Hybrid: Town Council Chambers B and via Zoom

Meeting link:

https://scarboroughmaine.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_j276hcZtTmSahsI8BWSbMA

Meeting #6 Agenda

1. Review 11/19 meeting notes
2. Review and discuss revised draft Open Space Plan (Plan link forthcoming; public comments attached)
3. Prepare for 2/19 Town Council Workshop
4. Review Schedule & Next Steps

Town of Scarborough Open Space Ad-Hoc Committee

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 | 9:00 – 11:00 am | Hybrid: Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Notes

[Meeting Recording](#)

Attendance (In person):

Committee: Andrew Mackie, Crescie Maurer, Maggie Vishneau, Doug Williams

Staff: Jami Fitch, Nicole Hall, Helen Harman, Karen Martin, Todd Souza, Autumn Speer

Consultants: Judy Coby-George, Madeline Tripp

Attendance (Zoom):

Committee: Tyler Davis, Noah Nygren

Town Council: Karin Shupe

1. Review 9/23/24 meeting notes

- No changes were made to the notes from the previous meeting.

2. Draft Open Space Plan Review Timeline

- Ad Hoc Committee members and members of representative committees have until 12/6 to review and comment on the draft.
- Public comments will be accepted from 12/20 – 1/17/25
- The goal is for the plan to be presented to the Town Council at a workshop on 2/19/25.
- **ACTIONS:**
 - **MADELINE** will incorporate the Committee's comments from the 11/19 meeting.
 - **JAMI** will pull together an email with review instructions that Committee members can send to their representative committees.

3. Draft Open Space Plan Comments

Overarching comments:

- The Committee likes the layout of the Plan. It's well-organized and looks beautiful.
- Add a brief summary of the planning process early in the plan.

Resource Categories & Maps:

- Main roads will be added to all maps.
- Add a map showing the Town's "other open space" parcels, some of which may be low-hanging fruit that could be permanently protected. Judy suggests showing existing protected lands as one color and adding municipal undeveloped, recreation, schools, and civic as different colors.
- The resource category maps need an explanation of how the data are represented on the maps. The data tables are counterintuitive to the maps. Add point ranges to all map legends to indicate how the ranking/colors were determined.

Town of Scarborough

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- Marsh migration map will have a zoomed-in inset of a portion of the map to show there are low, medium, and high scores represented on the map. A better description of marsh migration should be added to the plan.
- Add reference to how land protection benefits fisheries.

Focus Areas Map:

- In the existing conditions heat map, change the color of the “low” category to white.
- “Purple blob” needs refinement. For example, Prouts Neck should be removed.
- Show existing open space in green, add purple areas shown on the revised map provided by Viewshed at the meeting, but soften the edges so that individual parcels aren’t obvious, add a watermark of the “purple blob” over the map.
- Make sure the “purple blob” shows at least 30% of Scarborough conserved.
- The pie chart in the focus areas section needs more explanation. It’s not clear how the pie chart relates to the maps.

Strategy 1: Land Conservation

- Add reference to incentives and opportunities to the introduction of the strategies section.
- Change heading to be more general. Don’t specifically reference 30x30.
- 1.4: Remove. Strategies that are note specific ordinance changes should remain.
- 1.6: Change “high priority parcels” to “parcels within focus areas.”
- 1.8: change “development” fee to “impact” fee.
- Add strategy to explore funding for stewardship of open space. An impact fee cannot be used for maintenance, so another funding mechanism is needed.

Strategy 2: Residential

- Align 2.1 with 1.8.
- 2.1: Change language to reflect that the Town has a fund for land conservation (i.e., land bond).
- 2.2: Change to Subdivision Ordinance Changes.
- 2.2.3: Change “require” to “consider.”
- Move 2.2.3, 2.2.1, and 2.2.6 under 2.2.4.
- 2.3.6: Change language to “Consider Open Space Plan goals and strategies of during review of rate of growth ordinance.”

Strategy 2: Commercial

- 2.4.1: add reference to building height, parking reduction as strategies to reduce impervious cover.
- Change 2.5 to 2.4.2.
- 2.6: Change language to reference LID requirements.
- **ACTION: JAMI** will ask Angela Blanchette to review stormwater strategies.

Strategy 2: General

- Change category to “Stewardship.”
- Add stormwater, invasive plant-related items to stewardship categories.
- Add paragraph explaining that activities relate to the quality of open space.

Strategy 3: Data

- Soften some of the language to be recommendations rather than requirements.

- Add recommendations to review Open Space Plan data every 5 years.
- Add recommendation to create a viewer that uses the same service that the State has so data is always up-to-date.

Strategy 4: Education

- Add goal to make open space accessible to schools.
- Add incentives similar to the Lake Smart program.

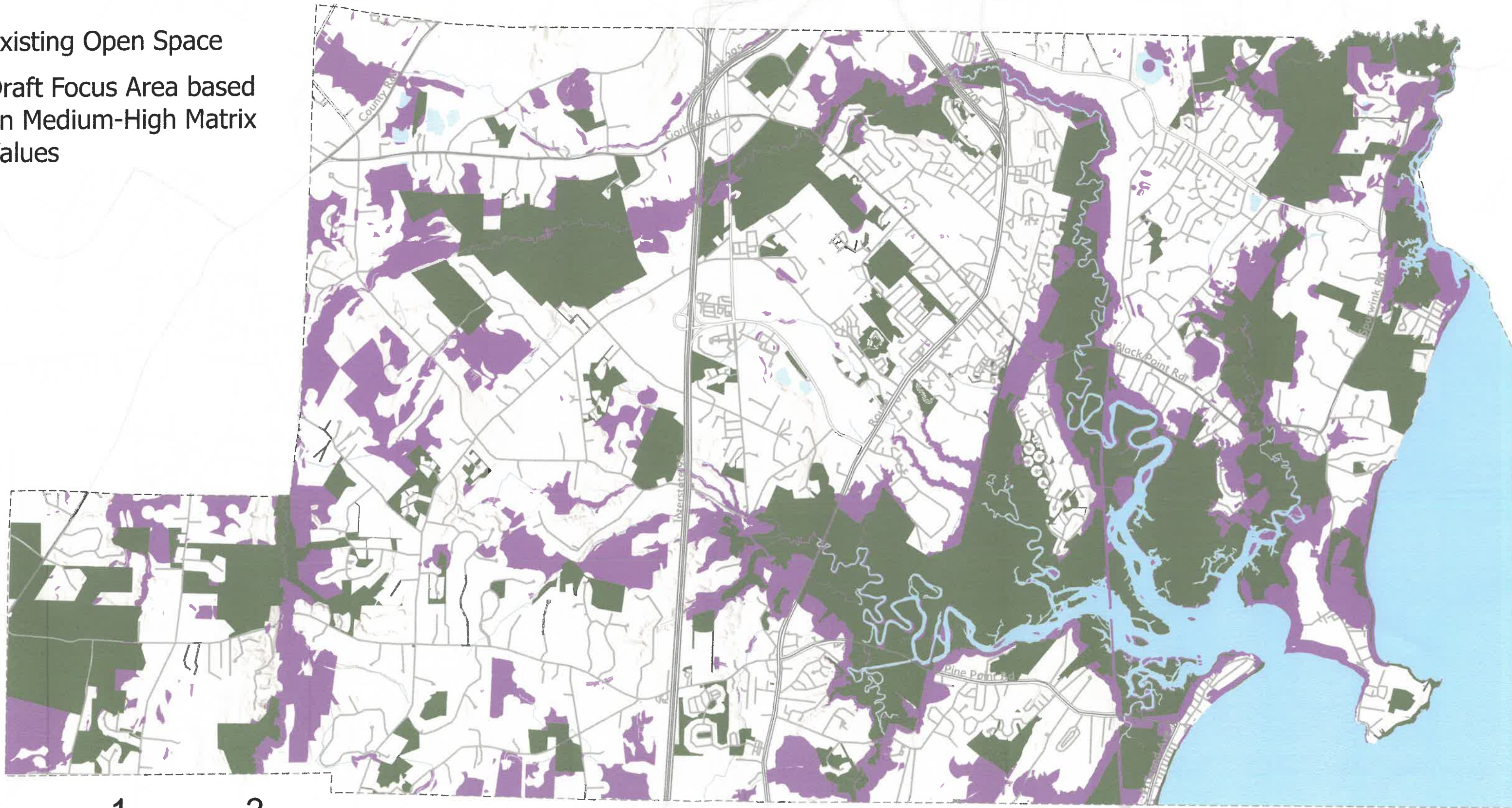
Implementation Plan:

- Responsible party will be filled in
- Add a timeframe column to the table
- Update names of strategies to align with those referenced earlier in the plan.

Next meeting:

- 2/4/25 @ 9:00 am, in person (Town Council Chambers) and on Zoom.

Existing Open Space
Draft Focus Area based
on Medium-High Matrix
Values



Miles

Color Key: **Red - discuss with staff**; **Purple - Pleasant Hill Disc Golf**; **Blue - cost**; **Green - kudos**; **Gray - stop development**

Comment Date	Please share your feedback below.	Notes
	Formatting comments from committee member in scanned doc.	Will do!
	<p>I'm sure this document has undergone much debate and revision. Thank you all for your hard work. I think it conveys a strong message. I also think it reads like a document aimed at our neighbors who have already committed, mentally, emotionally and financially, to conservation. It makes a good case for conservation, but seems to ask for more effort and funding, without a financial argument that expending time and money on conservation now will reduce the risk of even higher future remediation costs. What might it cost if private wells become contaminated, and we have to expand our public water and sewer system? What's the Town's financial impact of more roadways needing to be raised or new drainage systems installed? What's the economic impact if we lose our beaches and other tourist attractions? What I'm saying is, I believe we need to deliver the "pay me now or pay me a lot more later" message in this plan, as well as for the entire 30 by 30 goal. I write this as I've been reading letters to the Leader editor and overhearing conversations around town that can be summarized as, "those from away are forcing costs on us that we don't want and can't afford."</p> <p>My other specific input is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include clean air, with water, in the intro and throughout - Include the impact of good land conservation on our saltwater fisheries that produce healthy food and good jobs - In strategies, are there homeowner tax strategies to incentivize sustainable property management and is there more we can do to incentivize land donations? - In strategies, can we explore adding more required sustainable practices learning and outdoor exploration time in the school curriculum? 	<p>Strengthen message around pay now or more later investment. Include specific edits.</p>

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1/6/2025	<p>Thanks for your work on this. I'm confused about the number of acres the town would need to acquire to meet the goal of 30%. In some places I see 1700 acres and 6% of land and in other places I see 7% and 2200 acres. Whatever the number, it is large. It would be good to see an estimate of what it might cost to achieve the goal. Or maybe this is just aspirational? My second comment is regarding "Protecting Clean Water". Our Sanitary District does not extend to a few critical areas abutting the marsh. There are streets which dead-end on the marsh, such as Seavey Landing and Oceanview. Why don't we apply for grants to extend the sewer down these streets? Bayley's Campground is another example, off Pine Point Rd. When the Clean Water Act was enacted and Scarb. Sanitary was created Bayley's had just a handful of tent sites. Now it is a small city with over 1100 campsites and giant RVs with black water. It must be connected to the sewer! Low hanging fruit. Why isn't this an action item?</p>	<p>Commenter may have confused by the slides with old numbers in the appendix. Will double check numbers. Sewer extension not really relevant to Open Space Plan but will be addressed in Vulnerability Assessment.</p>
1/6/2025	<p>Municipal Civic and School areas are not "open space" - they are largely developed with buildings in place or planned, or have significant industrial-style use (grit depots, parking lots, etc). These should be removed from the inventory of current open spaces.</p> <p>Ordinance Review: Rural Districts need to preserve through-trails access for non-residential uses (solar farms, for example) which the town has enabled.</p> <p>RF and R Districts should limit length of driveways in addition to limiting dead end roads, and consider forcing maximum setbacks from public roads.</p> <p>Through trails should be able to cross any zoning district, including commercial or industrial zones.</p> <p>Pre-designate rural corridors for current and future trail connectivity across town, especially for specific "cross-town" corridors to focus trail use to connect Town & Village districts and areas focused for mixed-use and high density residential - this needs to be more strongly worded than the Item 3.5 currently in the plan.</p>	<p>Make it clearer that civic spaces are not counted. Strengthen recommendations on trail corridors around town.</p>

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1/6/2025	<p>Planning Staff should prepare a collation of the Open Space Implementation Plan with the Comprehensive Plan implementation plan as part of any final release.</p> <p>Existing properties with posted No Trespassing signs should be surveyed, and in areas where high priority trail access exist, the town should consider ordinance changes to enable customary property crossings and to remove No Trespassing rights where appropriate.</p>	<p>Combine/coordinate implementation with Comprehensive Plan. Strengthen high priority trail connections.</p>
1/14/2025	<p>I have talked with Scott K at SLT about this, but there are some additional privately held lands on the backside of Scarborough (R4) that could be acquired. I think there are more opportunities that are being missed, and there is a huge opportunity for there to be an extensive connected trail system of existing public and private trails. It could connect the recent Libby land acquisition to Broadturn Farm, through the Deering Farm, and order to Blueberry Lane, then over to Fuller Farm. I am not sure why this is not being actively sought. I believe some of the land is at risk of being sold to the next developer who wants it (between Blueberry and Thunder) even though the prior owner, who passed, wanted it kept wild.</p> <p>Happy to help if I can.</p> <p>Jes Karg 9 Thunder Road</p>	<p>Suggested potential lands for conservation and trail connections.</p>
1/11/2025	<p>I hope residents will have an opportunity to review proposed trail networks before approval.</p> <p>One of the key ways to support contiguous land for recreation would be to continue making the roads safer. Sidewalks and designated bike lanes with physical barriers transform life for residents and reduce dependence on vehicles. Motorists routinely exceed the speed limit and use the shoulder for passing on main roads creating hazardous conditions for cyclists and pedestrians. Please consider road safe as part of the plan. Thank you!</p>	<p>Concerns about trails and road safety.</p>

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1/22/2025	<p>Just want to share a couple of sentiments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With sea level rise mitigation improvements to areas like Rt 1 across the marsh and Pine Point Rd, please consider incorporating pedestrian and bicycle friendly improvements for efficient budget integration. 2. Keep community connected to the marsh by allowing people near the marsh even when elevating roads to mitigate for sea level rise. For example, keep and/or improve a lookout area along the marsh on Rt 1. Allowing the general public easy access to the marsh through which they drive piques curiosity and increases interest in conserving it. 3. Keeping/ improving Audubon Center on Pine Pt Rd is very valuable to the marsh, Scarborough, and greater Scarborough community. 4. I love the idea of emphasizing conservation to support pedestrian and bicycle connectivity through trails. Please also consider ways to improve connectivity between neighborhoods and local green spaces so people can get from homes to parks, for example, on bikes, not cars 	<p>Maybe more applicable to trail planning and climate planning. Bike/ped improvements along with SLR road improvements, improve neighborhood ped connectivity.</p>
1/10/2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Merrill Brook has a 75" setback. As such I assume it is considered important. It would be considered "threatened" is anyone cared enough to check. There is heavy salt runoff from the road that could be easily channeled onto a nearby flat, wooded area to absorb the runoff instead of it going directly into the brook. 2. Merrill Brook at Ash Swamp Rd floods over the road during extreme weather events. 3. Merrill Brook is a narrow, valuable, wildlife corridor that connects SLT property and Saco LT properties near the Saco line. It is not suitable for "recreation", trails, etc. due to the dangerous road crossing and lack of parking. Please consider it for protection. 	<p>Prioritize Merrill Brook (It's already in light pink focus area).</p>

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1/10/2025	Dogs, even leashed, pose several issues for Conservation properties. They foul nearby bodies of water with their droppings and spread parasites and diseases to wildlife and vice versa. Everyone knows few people pick up after their dogs. They kill, chase and disrupt the lives of animals from the amphibians and reptiles to insects, birds, and mammals. Dogs need to be restricted to "recreational land and trails" and true "conservation land" (not manicured parks and ball fields) needs to made off limits to preserve water quality, vegetation, wildlife and scenic value. Some dog owners, including myself, don't like to have to put up with dogs rushing them, barking, and dealing with dog poop when going for a quiet walk on a trail. And that's without my dog. Elderly people and parents with children also would like places to go without dogs. Please make Scarborough open spaces usable by everyone. Restrict dogs to designated areas. Thanks.	Restrict dogs from conservation areas.
1/11/2025	Living in North Scarborough, I was surprised to see neither Red Brook nor Smiling Hill nor the five large spring ponds qualify as high value open space, as those are the areas that I would first identify as highest value here. Looking deeper into the resource layers, I have a few suggestions leading to why this occurred. For Clean Water, only one of these five major ponds in North Scarborough is shown as a water body which is perplexing. For Habitat, I think these ponds should be listed as inland wading/waterfowl habitat as they are home to all manner of herons, egrets, geese and ducks (I sometimes count over 100 geese on one). Red Brook too I think should qualify as an ecosystem of significance as it hosts one of the last self-sustaining brook trout populations in southern Maine. For Working Lands map, Smiling Hill Farm is marked with a Low or Medium-Low score (with their field marked low and some woods in back medium-low) which also doesn't make sense.	Add Smiling Hill Farm and Red Brook to the high value open space (they already are). What are the 5 ponds called?
1/11/2025	For the Recreation & Connectivity category, I think the rankings are opposite from what they should be. Areas of town that have no easy access to current recreation opportunities (are most distant from existing recreation trails and public open space) should rank highest in terms of recreation need and therefore highest for town investment in recreation open space for that area.	Rethink recreation prioritization. Areas without rec should be prioritized.

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1/14/2025	<p>The ad hoc committee put a lot of nice work into this. For those of us not involved in the process, it's hard to tell from the document how this guidance/framework plugs into the existing town structure and fuels conservation. The scorecard and final focus areas map seem like great tools for prioritizing but who is responsible for applying those? And how does the town move the needle to close that 2200 acre gap between now and 2030? I don't get the sense that the ad hoc open space committee has a role or authority in implementation. I also see little about conserving farmland except under conservation subdivisions (whatever those are?). Data and education are important, but it seems like the top priority for Scarborough has to be working toward the 2200 acre goal in key areas identified on the focus map. This is a great framework... it seems like the next step needs to be an action plan, with human & financial resources behind it.</p> <p>Christine Labaree, 14 Clearwater Dr, Scarborough</p>	<p>Create clearer action plan with responsibilities and how strategies will be implemented.</p>
1/15/2025	<p>Thank you for your work on the Open Space Plan. I am a longtime Scarborough resident in the Pleasant Hill area, growing up on Pleasant Hill Road beginning in 1964 and currently reside at 30 Chamberlain Road. This part of Scarborough has seen intense residential development and the loss of prime farmland and habitat since the 1980's. In reviewing the open space plan, I would like to make a case for identifying the Pleasant Hill Disc Golf Course parcel as a contiguous open space focus area on the grounds of its recreation and connectivity options, habitat, and potential to return to the working farmland that it once was. This beautiful parcel is extremely important to residents of Pleasant Hill. While canvassing for the land bond in this neighborhood, multiple homeowners expressed concern about the development of this property without being prompted. Re-classifying would help to make the case for the necessary funds to protect it from further development. Thank you.</p>	<p>Include Disc Golf location in focus areas for conservation for rec and habitat purposes.</p>

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1/15/2025	<p>Hi, I live in the Pleasant Hill area adjacent to the Pleasant Hill Disc Golf course. This whole area is under constant pressure for development with houses seemingly appearing from nowhere in a matter of weeks.</p> <p>Land has been prioritized between Black point Rd and Pleasant Hill Road (see map on pg 28) where the Nonesuch River flows. I propose that the golf course, which is currently private land (ripe for "another" housing development), should be recognized as a contiguous open space that should be preserved. It is beautiful land with a multitude of wildlife that no doubt travels back and forth from the Nonesuch River. There exists great recreational opportunities or it could even return to its original state - farmland.</p> <p>Please reclassify this as a contiguous open space - this is extremely important.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your work and attention to this critical issue!</p>	<p>Include Disc Golf location in focus areas for conservation for rec and habitat purposes.</p>
1/15/2025	<p>Kudos to those who have worked on the open space plan! My husband and I live in Pleasant Hill and in the last 10 years have seen constant residential growth around us with a corresponding reduction of open space. In reviewing the plan, we see clear prioritization of land between Black Point Rd. (looking at the map on pg 28, it is to the right of Rt 1 where the Nonesuch River flows, much of which is designated either a high value open space or contiguous open space area.) Across the street from what has been identified as a contiguous open space focus area is the Pleasant Hill disc golf course. Although this is currently private land, it would be an excellent parcel for conserving based on high value recreation opportunities and habitat. We encourage you to reclassify this as a contiguous open space focus area.</p>	<p>Include Disc Golf location in focus areas for conservation for rec and habitat purposes.</p>
1/16/2025	<p>When looking at the map overlay, under "Recreation" the large parcel of land (also designated as "Existing open space" category) that is located in the Pleasant hill neighborhood off of Chamberlain road is currently a Disc Golf course and privately owned is marked as the color purple which the legend states is "existing parks" This is the same designation that memorial park off Durant drive/near municipal building, etc is, which is a designated town park. This parcel marking appears to be a discrepancy categorizing it as the same as an established park, which is not true. People do recreate on it as it it used currently, but it is in jeopardy of development if sold by the private landowner. This land is labeled as a designated recreation area and has not been "set aside" land for recreation (as stated under "Open Space Definition" page 8). This could be a potential sizable land area for recreation like a park or conservation opportunity should the land owner be willing. Thank you!</p>	<p>Consider conserving disc golf location if owner sells for recreational use.</p>

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1/16/2025	<p>Re: Habitat, I want to provide feedback re: a larger parcel of land designated as “Existing open space” category that is located in the Pleasant hill neighborhood off of Chamberlain rd that is a Disc Golf course and privately owned. If this land with large open space, ponds, old growth trees were lost, it would be a loss for many species-birds, deer, fox, frogs and others which use the open space area and adjacent woods by the railroad tracks for habitat and to cross from different areas of habitat. I am not sure if this area would qualify to add for the open space focus area map on page 28. If so, this is an important parcel of land and I would recommend adding this area as a focus area to provide linkages between these habitat areas with contiguous open space on either side. Agree that the identification of the marsh and surrounding areas of already conserved land, open spaces is a high priority. Impressed re: scope, data/detail with open space plan. Please extend comments timeframe</p>	<p>Include Disc Golf location in focus areas for conservation for rec and habitat purposes.</p>
1/16/2025	<p>This is great work and I am excited to see the commitment to open space. One area that I would like to highlight is the current Pleasant Hill Disc Golf land, that is noted as a park and recreation space in the existing map. I understand that the owners are looking or plan to look at selling the land and I would strongly suggest that this land be prioritized for conservation. It is a well maintained parcel of land with trees, a pond and other plants. Losing this space to a private developer would be a significant loss for the town. Generally, minimal effort and cost would be needed to immediately make the recreation space totally open for the public. Long term, this is also an excellent opportunity to consider building an ADA inclusive and accessible playground for people with disabilities. There is currently no outdoor play space in town that is entirely accessible to kids with disabilities. Its location abutting The Morrison Center ties in to this perfectly as well. Thank you!</p>	<p>Consider conserving disc golf location if owner sells for recreational use.</p>
1/11/2025	<p>Everytime you remove a piece of land from the market, from the tax portfolio, you are shifting that tax burden onto current residents. Please control growth through controlling development. Look at the downs, what in the world are you allowing on chamberlain road right now, apartments and so many houses. This town is ruined. Average home prices are unachievable for young new home buyers, the type of buyers we need to make sure our schools maintain engagement. Stop buying land to give to charity. If you must buy it buy and hold it in Scarborough town name don't give more away. That leaves options open for what comes our way decades in the future, and doesn't lock Scarborough residents in with a potentially mismanaged organization like SLT.</p>	<p>Criticism of conservation, cost, and partnerhsip with SLT</p>
1/11/2025	<p>How much will this cost to purchase properties and lost tax revenue ? We are constantly being asked to pony up for one plan or another and even when we say no the town just keeps putting it up anyway. We pay more than enough taxes now!</p>	<p>Concerned about cost.</p>

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1/12/2025	<p>My largest disappointment is that the Town Council often seems to promote causes without holding a serious consideration of the related finances. I read the draft, but no where do I find a section on potential cost to the town. The fact that the Town is promoting and closely aligned with the Scarborough Land Trust becomes a concern when one notes that Charity Navigator rates them only an 8.1 (third class). The Land Trust loses all points in the category of financial reporting. They do not make public current financial numbers (Form 990). The financial numbers provided on the Land Trust website are from 2021. I would have expected members of the Town Council to request better reporting from the Land Trust especially when recently pursuing a \$6M land bond that is intended to leverage the services of that group. At a council workshop prior to the bond vote I asked Andrew Mackie to update the financials on the website. He claimed he would, but that has not happened so far.</p>	<p>Include clearer cost estimates for the plan. Encourage more financial transparency with partners like SLT.</p>
1/11/2025	<p>Approving such an ambitious target without a thorough analysis of the costs and funding sources seems fiscally irresponsible. Based on current land values, the estimated \$329 million price tag is far beyond what is realistic for our town to achieve in the proposed timeframe... again, there is a timeframe tied to this. Furthermore, allocating tens of thousands of dollars for a consultant-generated plan that lacks actionable and financially feasible solutions only adds to my concern. Scarborough residents deserve a thoughtful, well-researched approach to conservation—one that balances environmental goals with fiscal responsibility and prioritizes projects that benefit the community as a whole. I urge the Town Council to reconsider the 30x30 goal in its current form and to engage in a more realistic, transparent and financially prudent planning process that aligns with the town’s resources and community priorities.</p>	<p>Make the plan more financially transparent.</p>
1/11/2025	<p>There is a lot of underutilized land that sits between the Nonesuch River and the Boston and Maine Railroad. A lot of this land is currently unused but it has really great views of the Marshes, the river and diverse wildlife that could easily be managed and planned to be a larger recreational trail network along the river. Uses that would work well in the space are mountain biking trails, walking and running trails, and bird and animal watching viewing stations / platforms. The land is so vast it could even connect to the existing Eastern Trail and provide another branch for the public to use and appreciate the wildlife found in Scarborough. All off these proposed activities would have minimal impact on the existing natural setting and would only work around what is there to allow more of Scarborough to experience the beauty we live in.</p>	<p>Much of this land is already in focus areas.</p>
1/16/2025	<p>I think slowing development will be an important factor to consider too, conserving 30% by 2030 is a great goal but I think permanent damage is already being done with the deforestation and habitat destruction</p>	<p>Kudos!</p>

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1/23/2025	<p>Sylvan Thorncraft 23 Chamberlain Road Scarborough</p> <p>I strongly support the Open Space Plan. My family frequently use trails, beaches, and parks all around town, we have been members of the Frith Farm CSA, and would love to see more spaces conserved. Development pressure will continue to change the face of Scarborough. I so appreciate how natural spaces enrich my life, provide wildlife corridors, and will help Scarborough build resilience in many ways. This is a wonderful opportunity to preserve natural spaces while we still can.</p>	Kudos!
1/23/2025	<p>I am so happy to read about Scarborough's 30 x 30 initiative to preserve open its spaces. The recent growth burst of our town is both exciting and daunting. What makes Scarborough attractive as a place to live and work is its balance of natural habitats, residential areas, and commerce. I wholeheartedly applaud the town's efforts to make sure that open spaces and natural habitats continue to be part of the equation.</p>	Kudos!
1/24/2025	<p>This looks great, and seems like a really well-thought out approach to the opportunities we have to conserve land in Scarborough. I think the focus on connecting the areas of open source is really important, too - as that will help both humans and other animals to make the best use out of them.</p>	Kudos!
1/13/2025	<p>I think the Open Space Plan is excellent. The process to identify conservation priorities seemed very thorough using the right criteria. I've heard that the plan is too expensive but we can't afford not to implement it now...while we still can! Great job!</p> <p>Betsy Barrett</p>	Kudos!
1/2/2025	<p>This open space plan is quite comprehensive and fairly easy to understand. I really appreciate the maps that were created to visualize the different open space ranking categories and their relative conservation values. I think the strategies make sense, and could lead to continued conservation of undeveloped land. I strongly believe that we need to be working with neighboring towns to developed connected corridors of preserved land, and align our open space goals with our neighbors. Given that our rivers, woodland habitats, marshes, and historic ag land cross town boundaries, I think it's vital that we ensure we're rowing in the same directions as our neighbors.</p> <p>I also think that creating an impact fee is an important step. We need to encourage in-fill development and growth within the designated districts, and disincentive development on lightly/undisturbed land and critical habitats and ecosystems.</p>	Kudos! Emphasize coordination with neighboring towns.

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1/10/2025	I am supportive of the plan and think that the primary goal should be to improve climate resiliency (particularly as it relates to flooding) and wildlife conservation. Secondary, but still important, in my opinion should be recreation.	Kudos! And prioritize Climate Resiliency
1/15/2025	I believe that our first priority should be Scarborough Marsh and its watershed. Those dark blue areas on pg. 22&23 mitigate risks to clean water, habitat & ecosystems, working lands, recreation & connectivity, commercial & residential property. Risks may be from current environmental hazards, such as flooding & waste water infiltration, &/or willful neglect of past evidence. Ordinance review & strategies 2.1-2.7 are critical as we recover from centuries old missteps & plan for a constantly evolving future. Thank you for your efforts.	Kudos!
1/15/2025	I fully support the town's Open Space Plan. Like many long term residents of Scarborough, the pace of growth and loss of open space is alarming to me and my family. I know taxes may be impacted by purchasing land to meet the goals of the OSP but protecting land is not something that can be delayed. Once existing open space is developed it is forever gone as wildlife habitat and as a place people can enjoy. The need to conserve more land in Scarborough is an urgent matter and I fully support it.	Kudos!
1/11/2025	All you have to do is Google Agenda 2020 2030, and look to California!	N/A
1/4/2025	<p>The town administration and council is responsible for failing to control rapid development. It's like the town administration got addicted to playing slots and took on 3 part time jobs to fund the habit when really you needed to quit the root cause. The root cause is the towns inability to put proper, fair and balanced policy in place to control growth.</p> <p>All future spend of public funds toward this goal must come with protection of tax payer rights. Stop giving away taxpayer money to private organizations. We support purchasing open land but keep it as town land, don't donate it. The town owns plenty of open land already, why the need to give it away to organizations like slt? They just turn these lands into polluted dog parks. Purchase it, hold it and keep it wild. Stop with the boardwalk trails everywhere loaded with green dog poop bags. You have given enough away already that this mismanagement of funds is becoming nationally recognized. Stop giving away tax payer assets.</p>	Stop development

Color Key: **Red - discuss with staff**; **Purple - Pleasant Hill Disc Golf**; **Blue - cost**; **Green - kudos**; **Gray - stop development**

Comment Date	Please share your feedback below.	Notes
1/15/2025	<p>Maine is one of the few Eastern states with large open spaces. Scarborough is in a unique position next to South Portland and Portland as well as Saco and Biddeford. These other areas have significant population that do not have large areas that could be salvaged as open spaces. Scarborough does. However, it is evident that those spaces are in danger with the growing population and expansion of business developments. It is ripe for exploitation by outside corporations who are not interested in the preservation of a unique environment. Having moved into a marsh development and facing new residents calling for drainage and cutting down the pines I am watching the conversion to a development look. Over the last several years the environment has changed significantly. Some owners revel at the rise in the potential to sell their houses for double or triple the amount it was purchased for. This is a classic pushing out of population and another semi-open space will be gone.</p>	<p>Stop development</p>