

Open Space Commission Meeting Summary

August 18, 2025

The meeting focused on the Casco open space plan, with key points including the review and approval of the meeting agenda, public comments, and the introduction of team members from Resilience Planning and Design. The team will conduct inventory work, map parcels, and engage the public in the fall. A draft map and existing conditions summary were discussed, with a tentative review meeting scheduled for September 3rd. The commission will provide feedback on the map and summary, ensuring accuracy and completeness. Future work includes water resource and trails mapping, with a focus on topography and water quality impact.

Action Items

- [] Review the existing conditions summary document and provide feedback to the consultant team.
- [] Forward the link to the draft inventory map of open space and conservation lands to the commission and interested public.
- [] Schedule a separate meeting with the consultant's GIS specialist to review the draft inventory map in detail.
- [] Provide a simpler version of the inventory map with just the key and parcel names/numbers.

Outline

Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda

- Speaker 1 introduces the meeting's purpose, focusing on the Casco open space plan and timeline.
- Handouts and printed agendas are available for attendees, including a two-page document detailing Casco outreach methods and an open space plan outreach and engagement potential calendar.
- A draft of a flyer for public outreach is also available.
- Speaker 1 requests that attendees speak up to ensure they are heard by Steve and Liz from resilience.

Approval of Meeting Agenda and Notes

- Speaker 1 moves to review and approve the meeting agenda, noting a quorum with three commissioners present.

- Eric requests to discuss possible bureaucratic changes under item 4c.
- The motion to approve the agenda is amended to include Eric's comments on ordinances.
- The agenda is approved with the amendment, and the notes from the previous meeting are reviewed and approved with minor edits.

Public Comments and Introduction of Guests

- Speaker 1 opens the floor for public comments, introducing guests Amy Brown, Bob Lerner, and Tom McCarthy.
- Roger Dietz comments on Casco's leadership role in clean water, open space, and environmental quality of life, and suggests promoting this role.
- Speaker 1 acknowledges Casco's leadership and mentions other towns with active committees.
- Speaker 2, Steve Whitman, introduces himself and his team from resilience, outlining their scope of work, including inventory and public engagement.

Discussion on Map Work and Existing Conditions Summary

- Speaker 1 proposes a detailed review of the map work done by Zak Brohinsky, suggesting a meeting to study the map in depth.
- Steve Whitman explains the importance of the map and the need for accurate information from the commission.
- The commission agrees to review the map in a separate meeting, ideally with Zak in attendance.
- Steve provides an overview of the existing conditions summary, explaining its purpose and the need for commission feedback.

Scheduling of Map Review Meeting

- The commission discusses potential dates for the map review meeting, considering the availability of Zak and other members.
- The tentative date set is Wednesday, September 3rd, at 6 PM.
- Speaker 1 will forward the map work and existing conditions summary to all attendees for review and feedback.
- Steve suggests creating a simpler version of the map for easier review and editing.

Future Work and Watershed Maps

- Speaker 1 asks Steve to discuss the scope of the grant and future work, including watershed maps and water quality work.
- Steve outlines the next steps, including water resource and trails mapping, to be presented at the September meeting.
- The commission agrees to review the existing conditions summary and provide feedback over the next six to eight weeks.
- The meeting concludes with a full commission present, and the next steps are outlined for future work and public engagement.