Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

OPEN SPACE STEWARDSHIP AND POLICIES WORK GROUP

September 2, 2026
5:00 P.M.
Main Meeting Room, Simsbury Town Hall

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1) Public Audience
2) Minutes from June 3, 2026
3) Simsbury Open Space draft discussion
4) Arboretum update
5) Agricultural Policy discussion
6) Invasives
7) Other Business
8) Events
9) Adjourn

Opens Space Committee and Policy Work Group
Regular Meeting
June 3, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.
Meeting was held on ZOOM

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Masino called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Present: Chair, Susane Masino; Vice Chair, Margery Winters; Committee Representative Members: Chair of Zoning, Tony Braz, and Chair of Culture, Parks and Recreation, Lori Coppinger; At Larger Committee Members: Tyler Archer and Helen Peterson; and Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation, Tom Tyburski.

II. PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Diane Nash 5 Merrywood, advocated for improved announcements of Open Space meetings. The important work of the OS committee, that our land is our most valuable asset and its preservation should impact the decisions of the commissions and boards.

Chair Masino stated she will send a note to the Board of Selectmen about the Open Space Committee's meetings being announced on the calendar on the Town website. Committee Member Peterson recommended including Ms. Nash's letter

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 8, 2026

Chair Masino amended "Deposition" on Lines 35 and 36 should read "Disposition"

Committee Member Peterson stated Lines 35 and 36 have "Dispostition Form" too repetitively.

Vice Chair Winters amended "Big Old Belden" on Line 62 to read "Belden".

MOTION: Chair Masino made a motion, without objection, to approve the April 8, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. (6-0-0)

Committee Member Archer introduced himself as an attorney who practices land conservation law, land use real estate, environmental energy, and anything to do with property.

The Committee Members introduced themselves to Committee Member Archer.

IV. OPEN SPACE INVENTORY UPDATE

The Committee discussed the various policies, ordinances, regulations, and codes, and agreed to put the Open Space Inventory at the end of the document and include a map.

V. ARBORETUM UPDATE

Vice Chair Winters stated that they are still waiting for the identification of plants and she will contact Bruce Powell. Chair Masino stated that Michele Jenks has photos that could be submitted with the application.

VI. INVASIVES UPDATE

Vice Chair Winters stated FRWA and the Simsbury Land Trust removed invasives near the Pinchot Sycamore Tree.

Chair Masino stated there is the annual Grange Fair on June 13th.

VII. EVENTS

Vice Chair Winters invited anyone interested to join the Simsbury Land Trust in invasive removal each weekend.

Chair Masino stated there is the annual Grange Fair on June 13th, 10 A.M. – 3 P.M.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Committee Member Archer proposed having a river front park or wildflower meadow near Owen's Brook (Southwest corner of Owens's Brook and Hopmeadow Street) that doesn't need to be regularly mowed. Chair Masino stated she will contact FRWA and Public Works about it.

Chair Masino stated she is going to advocate for invasive plant removal near the small wetlands on the southeast corner of Iron Horse Boulevard and Hopmeadow St. and it would be a great showcase project.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Chair Masino made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Winters, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. (6-0-0)

Chair Masino adjourned the meeting at 6:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Blaze
Commission Clerk