

The Open Space Committee is an appointed Town advisory body that endeavors to proactively identify and evaluate open space acquisition opportunities throughout the Town and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The Town's existing open spaces are managed and maintained by the Open Space Coordinator, a part time Town position that was established in 2005. The Open Space coordinator regularly attends Open Space Committee meetings and both entities coordinate their activities through the Board of Selectmen.

Open Space Committee

The Lyme Plan of Conservation and Development (revised every ten years) is used to guide the Committee. This plan establishes the ecological, aesthetic, cultural and recreational values that the residents of Lyme have identified as being important to the protection of the town's conservation identity. Certain characteristics such as size, location, ecological or cultural significance, natural features, (scenic vistas, geology etc.) suitability for multiple use (such as the ability to accommodate an affordable housing lot) and recreational potential are taken into account when the Open Space Committee evaluates the desirability of a particular parcel.

The feasibility of an initiative is as important as its desirability, so the Open Space Committee also works to ensure that the appropriate parties are 'at the table' when a project is reviewed. In some instances the Town's interests are best served through partnerships with the State, other towns and/or non-profit groups like the Lyme Land Conservation Trust and The Nature Conservancy. In other instances, it may be most advantageous for the Town to act alone. When the Committee determines that an initiative to purchase or otherwise protect a desirable property is properly structured, feasible and in the best interests of the Town, it works as an advocate to bring the initiative before the Town's leadership and ultimately to you, to vote on at a Town Meeting.