# West Newbury Mill Pond Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes November 29, 2023

By Zoom. Matthew Schwom, Chair, Deb Hamilton, Scribe, Jay Goldweber, Zippy Corning, members, Wendy Reed, Selectboard. Absent: Jenn Costain, Robin Pendergast, Paul Delaney.

CTO at 6:11 pm

1. Winter activities. Lack of predictable ice and snow means planning winter carnival is something we can’t execute. Instead, our goal is to open the building for walkers, xc skiers, any users at least on good weather Saturdays and Sundays. Jay to make posters for library, school, Food Mart. Notices can go on Public Service building scrolling sign.Matthew to get hot chocolate, donuts starting first Saturday in January. We could offer nature walks, tracking, tree hikes, Sawmill land explorations, beaver talks, etc. Local leaders including Cindy Bourquard, Carol Decker might lead? Can use Town email list of 300-400 people to reach out on Town website etc. Deb to get lockbox so building can be opened at will. Jay to inquire fire chief about a campfire/ cooking fire permit.
2. Pondside parking. Since we are not further developing an all-access trail at this time, we’d still like to discourage parking along the driveway. Boaters and fishermen frequently unload and leave cars there. Matt to discuss adding vertical posts with DPW AND Michelle Green. Should leave a 10’ opening for unloading boats and gear,
3. Sawmill Brook purchase funds have been raised, so plans for trails and projects should be forthcoming. We need to work with Greenbelt, OS and other stakeholders on future development plans. There’s a kick off meeting planned for December 13.
4. A filing is needed to upgrade the gravel road beyond the lower field gate, which apparently falls under MESA protection..We would like it raised, gravel added and graded before ECTA “Trails for the Trails” Canicross on March 30, 2024.
5. The big trees blocking the back green trail were removed by the Chestons, paid for by ECTA.
6. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR January 31; 2024, probably by zoom.