

West Newbury Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019
Second-floor Meeting Room, Town Office Building

Present: Don Bourquard, John Dodge, Carol Decker, Jean Lambert, Wendy Reed, Marlene Switzer (substitute scribe)

Absent: Jessica Azenaro, Brad Buschur, Patricia Reeser

Guest: Vanessa Johnson-Hall, Essex County Greenbelt

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

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Potential Land Preservation: Discussion about preserving land with drinking water importance. Need to complete and submit application for CPA funding to CPC by Jan. 7, 2020.

Unanimous approval (motion by Marlene Switzer, 2nd by John Dodge) for the Open Space Committee to co-sponsor with Essex County Greenbelt a Community Preservation Act application for funding in the amount of \$150,000 for the purpose of helping to permanently preserve 34 acres on the Artichoke River along Middle Street [Assessors Map R-27: parcels 28, 28A, 29] now owned by Preston and Deborah Rogers. Additional funding sources: Drinking Water Supply Grant (EEA), Newburyport CPA, state DCR.

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Article 97 Protection: Exploratory meeting on Dec. 30 with Water Commissioners, John Dodge, Vanessa Johnson-Hall. Discuss goals for town-owned land surrounding new Brake Hill water tower.

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Trail Management: Wendy Reed looking into proposed town trail manager position to monitor and maintain trails. Researched other communities where some managers are volunteers. New Conservation Agent Bert Comins now works 20 hrs/week and could add 5 hrs for trail management. Manager would report on trails at monthly OSC meetings. Position to be funded from ConCom budget for remainder of fiscal year. Patricia Reeser concerned about trail manager being responsible to ConCom instead of OSC.

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Mowing: Carol Decker, John Dodge, Wendy Reed and Marley Switzer to meet with DPW Director Wayne Amaral Dec. 27 to discuss town schedule for mowing fields. Carol suggests: mow every 2 yrs to create pollinator refuge, except where invasives are a problem. Mow half, leave remainder at least 6" high for migrating insects to overwinter.

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The next OSC meeting will be held Wednesday, January 15 at 7 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

cc: John Dodge

Marlene Switzer

website, Town Clerk