

West Newbury Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 22, 2019
Second-floor Meeting Room, Town Office Building

Present: Jessica Azenaro, Don Bourquard, John Dodge, Wendy Reed, Patricia Reeser, Marley Switzer, scribe

Absent: Brad Buschur, Dan Carlat, Jean Lambert

Guest: Rob ?????

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

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On a motion by John Dodge, seconded by Don Bourquard, meeting minutes for May 1 were unanimously approved.

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Discussion of a query on behalf of 15-year old Beau Colvin to be appointed steward of Riverbend trails. John is the ECTA steward of Riverbend and will speak to the group about Colvin's interest. Reminder that the ConCom Management Plan is in effect.

Don pointed out that there is confusion about the "trail owners" in West Newbury: Greenbelt, ECTA, the town, the ConCom or private individuals. Suggestion to clarify that point with an inventory and up-to-date list for the committee's reference.

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Groveland resident Rob ???? brought to the committee his desire to connect Brake Hill trails to the Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area. He is among a number of avid trail bikers who are seeking better connections between large tracts of land. When committee members looked closely at maps of the area to evaluate the possible connectors, they noted obstacles ranging from wetlands to private land crossing. More research into the impediments will be required.

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The committee was made aware of an Ocean Meadow resident who questioned why the OSRP trail doesn't extend to Route 113. It will be necessary to research if the ECTA easement across the **Lorde** land is legally recorded in the deed.

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Patricia reported on a Land Grant workshop in Boston that discussed ideas for purchasing a Conservation Restriction (CR) versus outright acquisition of property. The deadline for this year's Land Grant applications is July 11, so the committee will pursue this opportunity for the 2020 funding cycle.

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Patricia spoke with Mill Pond Committee Chairman Ryan Goodwin about the OSRP Action Plan to create an accessible Mill Pond trail. He is interested in such a project, but is not in favor of modifying the CR for the Mill Pond area.

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At the next OSC meeting on Wednesday, June 19, at 7 p.m., Wendy will report on the Planning Board she attended

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m., on a motion by Wendy, seconded by Jessica.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Switzer

cc: Town Clerk
John Dodge, website