

West Newbury Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes – Final

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Wednesday, January 20, 2021
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/685620045>
United States: +1 (312) 757-3121
Access Code: 685-620-045

Present: John Dodge, Don Bourquard, Carol Decker, Wendy Reed, Jean Lambert, Brad Buschur, Patricia Reeser, and Jessica Azenaro, scribe
Absent: Marlene Switzer
Guests: Kurt and Lisa Umholtz, Ann O’Sullivan, Sandy Burkenbush

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Motion for Executive Session was called by P. Reeser, 2nd by D. Bourquard. Called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Motion to conclude Executive Session by P. Reeser, 2nd by J. Azenaro. Regular session resumes at 7:43 p.m.

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1) Update on All Access Trail at Mill Pond - B. Buschur

- a) Vote to authorize the application of eligibility for all access trail.
- b) Motion to file an application of eligibility for a Mass Trails grant, sum to be determined by P. Reeser, 2nd by B. Buschur. Motion approved unanimously.

2) Invasive Species Update - C. Decker

- a) Nancy Pau’s invasive species presentation had a good viewing at the Garden Club.
- b) Questionnaire sent to participants.
- c) Link with presentation to be sent to OSC webpage.

3) Trail Agent Update - W. Reed

- a) Currently 2 hours per week designated for the trail agent, which is not enough for trail work. OSC requested 5 hours in 2020, which was not approved.
- b) Request hours from the trail agent to establish a metric for FinCom. (Examples of Riverbend downed trees.)
- c) Potential for grants to fund additional hours for trail work from Mass Trails, USDA, state, and regional resources to alleviate budget and tax concerns.
- d) Potential for intern, but an intern would need to be funded at Town Meeting. MVP working group could supervise.

4) Kimball Road - Kurt Umholtz

- a) Graff matriarch currently passed away and property taken off the market to re-evaluate.
- b) Tax and accounting perspective changed for the heirs.
- c) Graff Realty Trust.
- d) Property currently listed at \$2M.
- e) No discussion with the Town regarding discounted sale of property.

- f) Case to be made to the family that there is value in the house if the property is kept together. \$900K for 3 lots, few of them have 300ft of frontage.
- g) Fundraising can only happen once there is a concrete deal. Neighbors/abutters will need to explore donation options and include Myopia once discussions can occur with land owners.
- h) K. Umholtz to contact Wendy Willis and Deb Hamilton.
- i) Facebook group exists with 250+people that want to see the field preserved.
- j) The location is unique to West Newbury.
- k) K. Umholtz will gauge the interest of potential donors who value the view and want the space preserved.

5) Items not reasonably anticipated at the time of posting

- a) Meeting Minutes
 - i) Motion to approve sessions below as amended by J. Lambert, 2nd by P. Reeser:
 - (1) September 16, 2020
 - (2) September 16, 2020 - Executive Session
 - (3) October 21, 2020
 - (4) November 18, 2020
 - (5) Meeting minutes approved unanimously
 - ii) Approval for December 9, 2020 minutes postponed until February session.

The next meeting of the OSC will be February 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by P. Reeser, 2nd by D. Bourquard at 8:27 p.m.

Addendum to Meeting Notice regarding Remote Participation

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the West Newbury Open Space Committee will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible.

Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Town of West Newbury website, at www.wnewbury.org. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner:

Go To Meeting:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/685620045>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (312) 757-3121

Access Code: 685-620-045

No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of West Newbury website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as practicable after the meeting.