

West Newbury Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes – Draft

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Wednesday, June 16, 2021

7 p.m.

Please Join Zoom or In-Person Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8960752005>

Meeting ID: 896 075 2005

Present: John Dodge, Don Bourquard, Jean Lambert, Jessica Azenaro, Graham Bacheller and
Carol Decker, scribe

Absent: Marlene Switzer, Patricia Reeser, Brad Buschur

Guest: Wendy Reed; one unknown person on Zoom with tag of Jag

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

1) Items not Reasonably Anticipated at Time of Posting

- a) John began the in-person meeting, while also opening the meeting on Zoom, welcomed Graham Bacheller as the new OCS associate member; Kathy Feehery, the second new associate member could not attend, but sent her regrets in writing to John.
 - i) Brad B did not send in an application for re-appointment to the OSC; Carol D will ascend to voting member; Brad will continue to attend OSC as the liaison from the Parks and Recreation Committee.
 - ii) Marlene S and Jessica A are sending in their applications for re-appointment.
 - iii) Jessica A made a motion for John D. to continue as the Chair of the OSC. It was seconded by Don B. John said he would continue as Chair for another year. The motion was unanimously passed.

2) Discussion of Kimball Road Property

- a) The Kimball Road field with the iconic red barn is priced at \$1.2million for three house lots. The Planning Board has voted to not extend the right of First Refusal.
- b) John D. said the back house and barn will stay in 61A;
 - i) The Select Board will vote on June 28th whether to extend the right of First Refusal.
 - ii) Don B. made a motion that the Select Board not exercise the 61A Right of First Refusal; Jean seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

3) Memo from Brad B. on DER Grant and Mill Pond

- a) The Department of Environmental Restoration has a grant opportunity that could be beneficial for restoration of blocked fish passage on Indian River. The dam at Mill Pond and the culvert under Route 113 are the primary barriers to fish passage on the Indian River. Possible partners in the Grant would be Essex County Greenbelt Assoc. and the Merrimack

River Watershed Council. The opportunity to ask questions with the State closes on June 25th. Also discussed was the need to procure survey services for the proposed ADA trail at Mill Pond and to work with the Mill Pond Committee on this. John D. said he would call Brad and follow-up on his memo.

4) June 22 Town Fields Walk

- a) Carol D. explained that Hannah Mullally, Natural Resources Conservation Service Biologist and Xerces Society Pollinator Specialist will be driving down from Bangor, ME to spend the morning and early afternoon to survey the Town fields. The goal is to assist us in developing management plans that better inform mowing strategies so declining pollinators can better thrive while also taking into account recreational activities in each area. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation has generously funded her visit and we are very fortunate to benefit from her expertise. The SelectBoard, DPW, OSC, Cons Comm and many others have been invited to participate.

5) Knotweed Demonstration at Mill Pond

- a) The West Newbury Wild and Native Group has a knotweed eradication demonstration plot close to the parking area at Mill Pond. Approval was given by the Mill Pond Committee, though Essex County Greenbelt Assoc. holds the CR, and Wendy R. stated that approval should also be obtained from them. Carol D. said she would do so.

6) Annual Trail Hike

- a) Jessica A. said we should consider scheduling a trail walk for the public in September and discussion that Brake Hill would be a good site, though consideration on parking and steepness of trail should be taken into consideration.

7) Approve Minutes

- a) Jessica A. made a motion to approve the April 21minutes, the April 21 executive session minutes and the May 19 minutes as amended. Jean L. seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

8) Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm

- a) Jessica A. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jean L. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.