

West Newbury Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes - Final

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Wednesday, August 14, 2019
Second-floor Meeting Room, Town Office Building

Present: John Dodge, Don Bourquard, Wendy Reed, Marlene Switzer, Brad Buschur, and Jessica Azenaro, scribe
Absent: Jean Lambert, Patricia Reeser, Carol Decker

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

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- 1) **Meeting Minutes**
 - a. **July 8, 2019** – Unanimous committee approval for July 8, 2019 meeting minutes.
 - b. **July 17, 2019** – Unanimous committee approval for July 17, 2019 meeting minutes.
- 2) **Invasive Walk Update** – Ms. Azenaro created Sign-Up Genius for Invasive walk on Sunday, Sep 22nd (Rain date: Sunday, Sep 29th). Ms. Azenaro to reserve room through Ms. Sterling for the walk, update language prior to publishing walk link to Open Space committee page, Pentucket email blast and West Newbury email blast. Ms. Switzer to assist with publicity through Town Common, Haverhill Life, Daily News. Ms. Azenaro to create flyer in MS Publisher for review. Discuss additional goals and outcomes with Nancy Pau.
- 3) **BSF and RR Update** – Mr. Dodge
 - a. **Brown Spring Farm** – Total Project Cost - \$403,500 – CPA Contribution - \$200,000 - Funds raised to date - \$102,000, Funds left to raise - \$101,500. Current fund match by anonymous donor for \$25,000.
 - b. **River Road Conservation Project** – Total Project Cost - \$215,000 – CPA Contribution - \$75,000 Funds raised to date - \$92,000, Funds left to raise - \$48,000.
- 4) **Liaison Update** – Ms. Reed
 - a. **Planning Board** – Agreed trail for Sullivan Court incomplete. Ms. Switzer motions for a letter from Open Space Committee recommending the Sullivan's Court river trail completion as agreed by developer Tom Neve for public access and preservation of town rural character. Committee unanimously approves. Ms. Reed and Mr. Dodge to draft letter for Planning Board.
 - b. **Public Safety Sign** – Discussion regarding illuminated public safety building sign currently non-compliant with the town's bylaws. Mr. Bourquard motions for a letter recommending the sign be subjected to a planning board permitting review process. Committee unanimously approves. Mr. Dodge to draft letter to Board of Selectmen with copy to Planning Board.
 - c. **Tree Committee** – Email address fund discussion tabled.
- 5) **Trail Update** – All
 - a. **Red Trail** – Mr. Dodge to email Carol Lloyd of ECTA regarding trail maintenance and mowing along side the sides of Red Trail per discussions with Deb Hamilton. (cc: Deb Hamilton.) Mr. Buschur suggested discussions regarding managing for species in grasslands and other West Newbury habitats with Ms. Decker and Ms. Nancy Pau. Mr. Buschur also recommends contacting Americore in future regarding potential for 8-12 week trail maintenance projects within West Newbury.
 - b. **Bog Bridge Site Walk** – Tuesday, August 27th @ 6:00p.m. Stake area, discuss specifications regarding chicken wire treads on PD boards.

- 6) **Fall Bicentennial Walks** – Autumn walks set for 9-10:30 a.m.: Withers, Thursday, Oct. 24; Riverbend, Saturday, Oct. 26. Ms. Azenaro created Sign-up Genius. Currently waiting to publish link until after invasive walk to avoid confusion.
- 7) **All Other Business**
 - a. Lord/Kelly Easement – 50 ft piece that requires mediation through ECTA. Mr. Dodge to email Carol Lloyd of ECTA. Mr. Dodge to send easement to Buschur.

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The next meeting of the OSC will be Wednesday, September 11, 7 p.m.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Azenaro

cc: Town Clerk
John Dodge, website