

West Newbury Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

7:00 pm

Please Join Zoom or In-Person Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 896 075 2005

Present: Graham Bacheller, David Parrott, Jean Lambert, John Dodge, Don Bourquard, and Carol Decker, scribe

Absent: Marlene Switzer, Patricia Reeser

Guests: Michelle Greene, Conservation Agent and Vanessa Johnson Hall, Essex County Greenbelt Director, Land Conservation Division

CPC Application

Vanessa Johnson H. submitted an eligibility offer to CPC for the Ash Street Tree Farm. She is submitting an application for CPA funds prior to a closing agreement and needs to submit on August 17. The total purchase offer is not in the application. This would preserve the Lovejoy property with rare species habitat and it has important farmland soils. Eighteen acres would be purchased by MA Fish and Game and 18 acres would be a conservation restriction. Greenbelt also has a buyer identified for the appraised value. The purchase and sale agreement would be with the Evergreen Trust. This property could have six houses and potentially more without protection. John D. made a motion that we authorize Greenbelt to submit on behalf of OSC up to \$175,000 for the Lovejoy Property on the CPC application. Don B. seconded. Motion carried.

Sawmill Fundraising

Graham B. said he had missed the Greenbelt fundraising meeting, but John D. attended. John said Greenbelt would have a table at the next two outdoor bandstand concerts and asked if anyone on OSC could assist by attending and talking to residents about this important parcel of land. There may also be a house party and two site walks.

Select Board Questionnaire

Graham B. emailed everyone on OSC the questionnaire with feedback requested by the Select Board. There was also discussion about the website and John D. said he would take a look and get rid of old postings.

Invasives and Field Work Update

Michelle G. said the interns were wrapping up with their last day on August 17. They learned a lot, helped a lot and made interesting observations that were recorded in their presentation to the Select Board. Their presentation will be on the OSC and Conservation Commission websites.

Michelle G. said the intern role may be expanded next year to Summer Land Stewards. There are so many other things interns could be involved with that would be useful to her and would make this a more robust internship. Con Comm is still working on the wetland by-law and they have two new members, one full and the other an associate. Carol D. met with Angus Jennings, Richard Hills (Butch), Michelle Greene, and Rick Parker on a field mowing plan for three of the West Newbury OpenSpace properties as well as the solar field. The idea is to selectively reduce the mowing so the pollinators can prosper as well as save labor and tractor costs for mowing.

Approve Minutes

Jean L. made a motion to accept both the June 20, 2023 regular minutes as well as the Executive Session minutes. John D. seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn:

Don B. made a motion to adjourn. John D. seconded. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Decker, Scribe