

West Newbury Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Present: Graham Bacheller, John Dodge, Patricia Reeser, Jean Lambert, Marlene Switzer and Carol Decker, scribe

Absent: David Parrott, Don Bourquard

Guests: Michelle Greene, Conservation Agent

Sawmill Brook Update

Funding for the Sawmill Brook property connecting to the Mill Pond Recreation Area is completed. Next step is trail layout and funding. Graham B. attended the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meeting and funding was available for design and permitting of trails. Mill Pond equestrian group would like a connection to Deer Run, but wetland crossings are not going to be simple or inexpensive. The Deer Run connection is currently mowed grass and is a public way. Graham B. said the MA Land Grant Program which was part of the funding for the purchase of the property also requires parking spaces from the entrance off PoorHouse Lane.

Graham B. was asked at the CPC meeting about the OSC wish list for next year. Graham B said he would like to start a trail maintenance plan. Michelle G. said it would be helpful to have a trail operations plan and wondered if Graham B. could work with the Planning Board on this. There was discussion about the Ocean Meadow and Drake Landings trails and lack of upkeep. John D. said the Homeowner Associations are generally not trail friendly. Marlene S. said she would like an Open Space Preservation Bylaw discussion for a future meeting. She said there is no enforcement by the Town for HOA members to maintain trails. Patricia R. said the Town has the right to put a lien on Homeowner Associations. Patricia R. said she would craft a request to Mass Lands on trails.

Postcard Reimbursement

Michelle G. designed and had printed invasive plant cards for the Town Project Fair and Forum at \$33.00. Graham B. made a motion to reimburse Michelle G. with OSC funds and Patricia R. approved. Motion carried.

Mullen Memo

Michelle G. mentioned a memo that had been received by A. Jennings to the Town Departments concerning a Citizen Petition article filed with the Town Clerk for the disposal of the Mullen property through sale or lease. This is possible MBTA land which would need a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote at Town Meeting. The Select Board, as custodians of the property, have not taken a vote to declare the property surplus. Discussions about this property will therefore be postponed.

Approve November Minutes

Jean L. moved to approve the November minutes as amended. Patricia R. seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn

JohnD. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. Patricia R. seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Decker