

West Newbury Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Present: John Dodge, Graham Bacheller, Jean Lambert, Don Bourquard, Marlene Switzer, Kathy Feehery, and Marlene Switzer scribe

Absent Carol Decker

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m.

1. Patricia Reeser led the **Mill Pond All Access Trail** discussion, based on the special presentation of the consultant's design at the July 18 Select Board meeting. Kathy Feehery questioned if there is room to park behind the lodge. Graham Bacheller asked about the septic location and its pumping. Don Bourquard said if the lodge is expanded, the septic will have to be expanded. Kathy Feehery was concerned about the planned trail not being extensive. And she suggested interpretive plaques & use of Braille, saying the Tree Committee should be involved.

Patricia Reeser reported that Angus said the trail isn't required to be ADA compliant, but trail drainage is important. To the OSC members, she pointed out that the consultant's design didn't address two main subjects: the ADA code and the scope of the work. The next step for the consultant is to determine the cost of permitting and the details regarding land grading.

The OSC members were unanimous in their concerns that the design doesn't represent the priorities that the OSC envisioned. Patricia Reeser agreed to inform the Select Board that "the OSC will take back the project." **July 20** Input from the Riding & Driving Club, Parks & Recreation and the Mill Pond Committee also is welcome.

2. Patricia Reeser said the OSC's **Annual Fall Hike** is an opportunity to partner with WN2. That group has had the resources of 2 Interns using EdMap to locate invasives on Town trails. Graham Bacheller envisioned a contest with Hike participants getting stamps for finding invasives that could earn prizes. The Fall Hike target date is **Sunday, Oct. 16**.

3. Graham Bacheller reported that the PB agenda included the **Austin Property**, and he has recused himself from discussions. Of note: Greenbelt is negotiating with the principals. Vanessa Johnson will be on a 10-week sabbatical beginning in August.

4. Kathy Feehery is leaving West Newbury to move to New Hampshire in August. David Parrot will be the **replacement Associate member on the OSC** from the ConCom.

A motion by John Dodge to accept the June 22 meeting minutes was seconded by Don Bourquard.

Patricia Reeser's motion to adjourn the July 20 meeting was seconded by John Dodge, at 9:01 p.m.