

West Newbury Open Space Committee

REC'D W. NEWBURY CLERK
'23 FEB 15 PM 1:17

Executive Session

Wednesday, December 14,, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Please Join Zoom or In-Person Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 896 075 2005

Present: John Dodge, Jessica Azenaro, Patricia Reeser, Jean Lambert, David Parrott, Don Bourquard and Carol Decker, scribe

Absent: Marlene Switzer; Graham Bacheller recused himself

Guests: Michelle Greene-WN Conservation Agent, Vanessa Johnson Hall-Greenbelt Director of Land Conservation, Maggie Brown-Greenbelt Land Conservation Project Manager

1) Discuss Austin Land Acquisition

Vanessa Johnson Hall said the Austin land of 32 acres off Poor House Lane could be acquired for \$705,000. To complete the deal, they need \$350,000 from West Newbury CPA funds. Also, EC Greenbelt would invest \$100,000 plus they would write a land grant for further funds and fundraise for the remaining amount. She said they have support from the West Newbury Conservation Commission for the CPA funds. This property would be owned by the Town, since it provides a valuable link to other town-owned properties and wildlife corridors, and the property was highlighted as priority in the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The new State BioMap shows the property contains rare species. Vanessa said the property is in great shape with fantastic wildlife habitat and the two proposed houses would be very large and have a negative impact on Sawmill Brook that flows into Mill Pond. It was noted that the Town has paid much larger sums for valuable property in the Town, both from CPC funds and land bonds.

A motion on the property will be made in the Open Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Motion to conclude Executive Session by J. Dodge, 2nd by D. Bourquard. Motion carried.

End of Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Decker, Scribe