



## **WEST NEWBURY OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

West Newbury, Massachusetts 01985

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Open Space Committee (OSC) met regularly during Fiscal Year 2010. Our accomplishments include:

- In partnership with DPW Director Gary Bill, the Essex County Trails Association, West Newbury Eagle Scout Jeremy Baker, and dedicated, unnamed volunteers, we made significant improvements to the trails and the trail markings at the Riverbend Conservation area. This project furthered our goal of making town land more accessible to the citizens of West Newbury. This trail project also enhanced the town-wide West Newbury Trail Network (WNTN).
- The OSC in partnership with the Essex County Trails Association (ECTA) hosted a Trail Walk in recognition of National Trail Day. The walk was held at Riverbend to showcase the improvements and culminated in a Hot Dog Roast at Mill Pond. Participation was excellent and the OSC plans to make this an annual event.
- The OSC successfully extended state approval of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) by submitting additional goals and objectives. The OSRP is now approved until 2016 making West Newbury eligible for significant state grants.
- The OSC continued to work with the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission to obtain easements on land being developed to further the West Newbury Trail Network and make our open space available to the citizens of West Newbury. The OSC would like to thank the PB and the ConCom for their cooperation and recognize the diligence of OSC members Don Bourquard and Felicity Beech.
- The OSC successfully advocated for the establishment of a Town Land Working Group to conduct the due diligence required before town land should be considered for sale and to make a recommendation to the BOS regarding parcels that may be considered for sale.

- The OSC made a presentation to the community group, Citizens for a Stronger Community (CSC), outlining town acquisition of land, the purpose for which it was acquired, how it was funded and the financial impact to towns services (schools, police, fire etc.) if it was developed.
- The OSC partnered with two West Newbury based Weblo packs (Cub Scouts) to cut and mark a trail from Brake Hill Terrace to the existing trail network at Brake Hill (the town – owned Craven property). This is a critical link in the West Newbury Trail Network connecting the Pentucket campus and Route 113 with Brake Hill.
- OSC member Steve Greason continued to improve the OSC website that provides the citizens of West Newbury with list of trails, maps and an opportunity to comment on trail condition. The link to the website is [www.wnewbury.org/open-space-committee](http://www.wnewbury.org/open-space-committee)
- The OSC continues to work with the Parks and Recreation Committee to advocate for both active and passive recreation and considers this dialogue critical to the future recreational opportunities in West Newbury.
- The OSC continued to maintain the Priority Parcel List and evaluate land for open space potential.
- The OSC also reached a milestone when an original member of the OSC, Annie Madden, resigned. For her years of service, Ms. Madden was presented with citations from the state legislature, the Board of Selectman and the Essex County Greenbelt Association. The OSC would like to thank Representative Harriet Stanley, Selectman Glenn Kemper and Executive Director Ed Becker of Greenbelt.

The Open Space Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the 1910 Building. We welcome the participation of anyone interested in our open space activities.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Barry J. LaCroix, Chair