

MINUTES
West Newbury Open Space Committee
July 27, 2016

Present: Jean Lambert, John Dodge, Dawne Fusco, Patricia Reeser. Brad Buschur joined the meeting by phone at 8:15 for a discussion of Drake's landing.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35. The Committee voted unanimously to enter executive session to discuss a possible real estate transaction at the request of Vanessa Johnson of Essex County Greenbelt.

The meeting was re-opened in public session at 8:10 p.m.

Vanessa announced Greenbelt would hold a workshop at NECCO Saturday November 12, 2016 from 8:30-2:30. Topics will include trails, mapping and free online mapping tools. Steve Greason will be presenting during the trails session.

Brad joined by phone to update us on Drake's Landing on the so called Daley property.

The latest plan shows a 3200 foot cul-de-sac and 36 units. The yield plan (based on duplexes) showed a road running from Main Street to Meeting house Hill. Brad opined that was unlikely ever to be built because the grades are so steep. Brad believes the yield plan shows an unlikely number of units. He pointed out the OSPD plan did not protect any existing paths or connections to Action Cove or adjacent ballfields. It does propose a boardwalk through a wetland which is an amenity that would require Con Comm. approval.

Discussion ensued. Those present voted unanimously to have Patricia write to the Planning Board expressing Open Space reservations about the current plan as follows:

1. The yield plan seems to preserve more open space values than the OSPD plan
2. To urge the Planning Board not to grant waivers for more than 800 feet of street length for a dead end street
3. To ask that meaningful trail connections through the development be required to Action Cove at the least and to remind the PB that the boardwalk was a speculative amenity until approved by Con Comm.

Discussion of initial survey results. Jean was double checking paper surveys against online results and tabulating narrative responses.

The Committee was asked to try to have a first draft of assigned sections for the Open Space Plan for the August meeting with list of issues that require committee discussion and action. Draft sections for review and circulation should be ready for the September meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia P. Reeser