

July 20, 2011 Open Space Committee Minutes

Attending: Felicity Beech, Barry LaCroix, Jennifer Germain, Steve Greason, Patricia Reeser, Don Bourquard and Dawne Fusco

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.

1. The Open Space Committee made a joint presentation with the Friends of Ocean Meadow Trails (FOOMT). Barry LaCroix opened the presentation with an overview of how the Open Space Committee is committed to marking and connecting trails throughout the town.

Amy Bresky, representing the FOOMT, demonstrated, with some excellent maps, where the town trails are and how the Ocean Meadow Trails are a wonderful connecting point. She asked the group from Ocean Meadows if they had any questions or concerns. Their main concerns were: who will maintain the trails going forward, who is responsible for picking up after horse droppings, and what are the hours people can walk the trails? Amy answered their questions saying that the trails are maintained by several volunteer groups, horse droppings would hopefully be picked up by their respective riders, and the hours are clearly defined in the easement. She thought they were sunrise to sunset.

Steve Greason from the OSC gave a short presentation on how successful the past River Bend project was. He encouraged people to use these beautiful trails. He also shared several other maps which showed off the topography of West Newbury.

The turnout was about 30+ people and the Open Space Committee was pleased to be able to educate more town people about our trail system.

At 9:10 PM, following the presentation, the audience left and the meeting turned to other OSC business.

2. There was discussion about having our next meeting include James Coates who is representing St. John the Evangelist's land. They are very open to connecting their land with town trails to form a corridor to Maudslay State Park.

3. There was discussion about Lot 4 of the Sforza property which is under 61A. The State is requiring signs for endangered turtles. There is a buffer zone that needs to have signage on it.

4. We were asked by the town selectmen to give a recommendation on taking Lot 4 out of 61A. We were not provided with a price on the land so made the following motion:

Assuming the price is more than \$100,000 for Lot 4 of the Sforza property, our recommendation is that the Town not exercise its right of first refusal to buy it. The motion was proposed by Barry and seconded by Don. The vote was unanimous for the recommendation.

5. Steve Greason was acknowledged with a thank you from the committee for his hard work in seeing the copying and lamination of four town maps done. The committee would like to see maps hung upstairs in the Town Offices. Don agreed to contact the Town Library and to set a date to have maps displayed there.

6. It was agreed that there needs to be a plan for the Fall Trail Event which should take place in October.

7. Patricia gave an update on the land committee's recommendations to the town for what parcels should be considered for sale. There were 15 sites identified, none of which was a large parcel on our priority list.

8. Don reported on trails on Brake Hill. He had walked these trails and mapped two different loops. He handed his drawings out for comment. It was decided that anyone interested should walk the route at a time to be determined in the next week. Steve wanted to use the GPS to get the exact coordinates. Patricia agreed to lend him her GPS. The OSC would like to see these trails designated and marked.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Germain