

West Newbury Open Space Committee Minutes

November 16, 2011

(Amended 1-18-2012)

Attending: : Barry LaCroix, Jennifer Germain, Jean Lambert, Felicity Beech, Steve Greason, Patricia Reeser, Don Bourquard

The Meeting was called to order at 7:40.

- 1. Annie and Lark Madden donated** a copy of the “Speak of the Land” map to the Open Space Committee. This map was started when there was an oral history done at a gathering at the town hall on 2009. Thanks will go out to Annie and Lark as well as to Tom Herth from Newburyport and Sue Follonsbee. They all worked on this for the past few years.

A copy of the map will be displayed where people can continue to record their memories or information.

2. Discussion of library display by Don Bourquard

The intent is to display large maps that the Open Space Committee has developed and share them with the public between Dec. 1, 21011 and Jan. 31, 2012. They will be displayed around a room that the library has designated. The Speak of the Land map will be displayed over the mantel.

Jean Lambert will work with Don on the exhibit and a display table with handouts of maps and walks.

Jean will contact the *Daily News* to make people aware of the library display.

Barry will find out if the Historical Society got a copy of the Speak of the Land map. If not, the OSC will print one for them.

3. Annual Report :July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

To be done by Barry.

Some of the accomplishments:

- Full moon walk event March 2010
- Advocated to hold CPA in place
- Weeblos Trail established
- Trail easements put in place
- Developed a close working relationship with the Planning Board
- Publication of maps
- Website ongoing and improved
- Advocacy, improving and education for trails

- Participation in town land sale committee.

4. Sullivan Property

- Planning Board taking an active role
- Selectmen got an appraisal of \$1.38 million for south side (upland) 25 acres.
- For \$2.1 million, Developers are looking to put in 30 condos, 4 affordable units, 6 AR lots approved with a septic tie-in in case the lots do not perc.
- Each AR lot priced at \$225K.
- Looks like 25 acres less 6 AR lots = \$750K out of pocket.

The Horsley Witten Report originally indicated

1. maximum build out of 23 buildings
2. 18 lots

2nd Horsley Witten Report 6/09 said the types of soils would indicate there could be 10-15 residential lots.

The Sullivan family has 30 days from being given our appraisal to get its own. If the land is taken out of 61A \$26,118 taxes would be owed to the Town. Further discussion ensued about the involvement of Trust for Public Land (TPL). The OSC would like to have the selectmen form a committee to see what the best course of action would be.

Jean made a motion: To have the BOS continue to investigate possible municipal options for the Sullivan Property and initiate a conversation with the TPL. She further recommended that the BOS appoint a team representative of key stakeholders to work with TPL to consider using the "Protocol for making expenditures under the land preservation and growth management." Don seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous, in favor of the motion.

Barry made another motion and said he would write a letter to the BOS identifying our interest in urging them to work with TPL. The Sullivan property meets all but 1 of the OS criteria, establishing the land as a very high priority piece. It is a critical piece of unique property with views of the river. Jennifer seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous, in favor of the motion.

5. Update for Town Land Working Group

5 lots in town have been identified to recommend to the BOS to sell.

6. Goals and Objectives

Steve made us aware of a document from MVPC - a write up and map they had done. There needs to be some updating of the Riverbend Trails and there are some trails missing. Steve will communicate with the MVPC on the following points:

- GPS markings of the Berkenbush / Chestnut Hill Trail (not on map now)
- Correction of Riverbend Trail
- Website link mention
- Weeblos Trail not on there.

We talked about another walk to continue to improve the exposure of our great trails.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Germain