

West Newbury Open Space Committee

MINUTES

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Present: Jennifer Germain, Barry LaCroix, Don Bourquard, Annie Madden, Jean Lambert, Dawn Fusco, Steve Greason and Felicity Beech (recorder).

- 1. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for June 17 meeting were approved.
- 2. Schedule of Minute Takers:** It was agreed that the chair, web master and map-maker not be expected to take minutes. A schedule as follows was agreed: July: Felicity; August: Dawn; September: Annie, October: Jean; November: Jennifer.
- 3. Open Space & Recreation Plan:** It was agreed that Jennifer would lead this project through to completion. The draft had been sent to the following reviewing organizations:

MVPC: had replied endorsing the Plan

BOS: had approved but no letter was yet received. Barry to follow up with Kris Pyle.

ConCom: Dawn advised that it had not yet been discussed but was being reviewed by Wendy Reed.

Planning Board: had made a number of edits. These had been documented by Jean Nelson and Felicity with the revision to be provided as a disc to Steve on Monday 7/20. Jennifer to check that a letter of review would be forthcoming.

State Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs: The Grants Manager's response required the OSC to address nine items before giving final approval. Members to address these were:

1. Additional History 19 & 20th centuries - Felicity
2. Population density & employment trends- Felicity
3. Vegetation: shade trees- Annie
4. Environmental challenges- Annie
5. Section 5 - definition of "protected" and open space equity -Don
6. Community needs and SCORP - Jean
7. Action Plan Objectives funding sources - Barry
8. Letters of Review - Jennifer
9. Maps - Don.

After discussion about the Hills of West Newbury Map it was decided that this was important to keep as a reference index for the land inventory. Don agreed to write a description to accompany the map that showed changes in development to be included in Section 3.

Printing. Jennifer would investigate the possibility of using 3-ring notebooks and double-sided printing to reduce costs of the final plan document.

Action Map. It was agreed that Don and Felicity would finalize and map the projected long-term trail connections on this map.

All members of the OSC for both of the last two years would be listed as contributors to the OSRP.

It was agreed that all changes would be sent to Steve by Wednesday July 22 for incorporation in the final version of the Plan.

4. **Riverbend Management Plan:** Felicity and Dawn advised that this had not yet been approved by the Conservation Commission. The members had concerns about specifying the parking locations close to the elementary school and on the western end of the River Road Trail. The OSC would continue to endorse the plan.
Felicity advised that The Essex County Trail Association (ECTA) may be able to fund improvements to the River Toad Trail which had seriously deteriorated in three places. ECTA was planning to get estimates for this work to be done.
5. **ECTA Trail Map** Felicity advised that the ECTA was planning to publish a map to show all of the public trails in West Newbury. This would be similar to maps for Ipswich and Hamilton-Wenham which may be seen on the ECTA web site and can be linked to the OSC web site. She and Don were working on ensuring that the mapping was accurate as possible.
6. **ECTA Town wide Trail Management Plan** It was noted that this was still in process of being approved by the Con Com.
7. **Speak of the Town Project & Map.** Annie Madden reported that Tom Horth had completed a first version of this map and she was hoping to have a full sized copy posted in the Foyer of the Town Officers so that further annotations could be made by town residents. She had drafted a press release inviting participation. It was agreed the map would be made available to the public at no cost.
8. **Maps** Don suggested, and it was agreed, that the new maps prepared for the OSRP by the Merrimac Valley Planning Commission, and funded by the Planning Board should be presented to the PB at the next meeting. It was further agreed that two sets of the large-sized maps be mounted on fiberboard for better display. One set to be held by the PB and one by OSC. A suitable place for review by the public would be determined. It was noted that the Assessors Office was now able to print maps up to 24" by 36".

9. **Letter to Selectmen.** Barry advised that a letter had been sent requesting input from the OSC when priority parcels were being considered for acquisition. No response had yet been received.
10. **Grants:** Barry advised that the MVPC grants (Job Access, Reverse Commute and New Freedom Grants) did not present OSC opportunities.
11. **Next Meeting:** August 19