

**West Newbury Open Space Committee
September 16, 2009 Minutes**

Present: Barry Lacroix, Chair, Jennifer Germain, , Jean Lambert, Dawne Fusco, Steve Greason, Felicity Beech, Annie Madden, recorder

1. Approval of minutes: Minutes of July 15, 2009, moved and approved, unanimously.

2. Update on the 2009 OS&R Plan: Jennifer has received estimates from Zip Type, Minute Man and Staples and has taken the plan to the printer (Minute Man). We will be printing double sided. CD's will be provided to many of the boards. The State has given approval of our edits, but a formal letter has not yet been received.

3.ECTA Update: Felicity and Deb Hamilton are now on the Board of ECTA. There is a new Executive Director – Alex Van Alen. They are doing some mapping of public West Newbury trails and will be publicizing them with descriptions on their website. We agreed to share trail descriptions and will request to use their produced maps for our website. We will attempt to coordinate with them rather than duplicate efforts. The quote to improve the River Bend Road Trail was \$9000. (culvert repair, repair of muddy areas, repair footings near the bridge). Gary Bill reports that his department may be able to do some of this work in conjunction with a future Riverbend parking area project. Amy Bresky has offered to pay for some signage at Riverbend using the original Riverbend logo, and she will install.

Other updates: Con Com has approved the Riverbend Management Plan. Tracy Blais has formulated a warrant article for approximately \$35,000 for a parking lot for four cars and improvements to the access road to Riverbend for the October Fall Town Meeting.

4. Implementing OSRP Objectives in FY 2010 Discussion of next years goals and subcommittee composition was lead by Chair Barry LaCroix. What follows is an outline of the detailed discussion:

Goal 1 Recommend appropriate acquisition that facilitate open space and recreation goals.

Work with Friends of Sullivan property to identify funding sources, grants. Work with other interested boards and committees. Advocate at the BOS,etc. Discuss long range funding strategies with Finance Director for open space preservation. This will be an effort undertaken by the entire committee.

Goal 2 Education and outreach

- Action items - Land owner outreach,
-Educational events.
-Educational pieces on the website.
- Publicity of land preservation and trail easement options.

Subcommittee members - Jean Lambert, Barry LaCroix, ? Patricia Reeser

Goal 3 Develop inventory and management plans for town-owned parcels.

Actions- as stated

Subcommittee members - Jennifer Germain, Dawne Fusco, Annie Madden

Goal 4 Improve Public Access to trails, Improve Maps and Trail Information

Actions

- Work further on publicity of trails, and coordinate these efforts with ECTA.
- Work to enhance our collection of trail maps.
- Hold public trail walks
- Continue to update trail conditions reports
- Mark public trail heads
- Plan trail maintenance days

Subcommittee Members – Steve Greason, Don Bourquard, Felicity Beech

Goal 5 Maintain coordinated communication with other boards on Land Use Issues

Other

Trail Day October 18th, 2pm at the Back of Indian Hill to improve the passage around the northwest edge of the Indian Hill Reservoir. Bring clippers, brush clearing tools, etc.

There will be a **special OSC meeting on October 19, 7pm** to review the warrant and discuss any recommendations immediately before the town meeting.

The **next regular meeting** will be on **October 21, 2009, at 7:30pm.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:45.

