

Town of West Newbury
Open Space Committee
Minutes, May 9, 2007

Present: Mike Mokrzycki, Patricia Reeser, Don Bourquard, Jean Lambert, Dawne Fusco, Annie Madden, Jim Ryan.

Minutes of April 11, 2007 approved.

Project updates:

Indian Hill - progress being made, appraisal being reworked. Patricia is on the Indian Hill Project Team. 902 Main Street – OSC via Don continues to work with land owners regarding an easement. Currently project on hold due to state issues.

White Gate - lots approved by Con Com. Don is working with property owners regarding an easement. He will keep OSC informed.

Craven- Jim walked with WHT which is evaluating for affordable housing including open space and trails. Ash Street - Jim walked with WHT. Site very wet. Unlikely to be appropriate for housing. Possibly for trail.

Knowles – proceeding with new ownership, to be known as “Ocean Meadows”, with previously negotiated easement.

Mullen – ongoing planning for affordable housing

Daley – still in early development stages. Original plan may need to be revised.

Trails – Don is working with the scouts on marking the white trail, Pipestave and River Bend trails.

Priority Parcel List

The committee took a first pass look at the 6/2005 list and noted changes due to development and preservation efforts. Don to research a few details for next meeting.

Open Space and Growth Management Bond

Annie reviewed that there is a common feeling in town that the bond has funded a large amount of open space preservation in town over the last few years. The only dedicated open space project funded was the Cherry Hill view shed for just under \$500,000 or 10% of the bond. The remaining \$4.5 million (or 90% of the Bond) funded the Dunn Farm acquisition and a portion of the Mullen acquisition. These two parcels were purchased by the town for “municipal use”, for future needs such as affordable housing, school site, well site, with possible mixed complementary open space and recreational use.

Landowner outreach

The committee voted unanimously to purchase 40 copies of the booklet “Land Conservation Options” at \$5 per copy for distribution to large landowners in town. (Annie abstained).

Next meeting; June 13, 7:30 pm

Adjourned 9:30 pm.