



Town of West Newbury
Select Board
Monday, July 18, 2022 @ 6:00pm
381 Main Street, Town Office Building
www.wnewbury.org
Open Session Meeting Minutes

Open Session: The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairperson Archibald.

Participation at the Meeting:

David Archibald, Richard Parker, and Wendy Reed *Select Board Members*
Angus Jennings, *Town Manager*
Trent Lloyd, *Landscape Architect*
Brad Buschur
Deborah Hamilton
Wendy Willis
Patricia Reeser

Announcements:

- This meeting is being broadcast on local cable TV and recorded for rebroadcast on the local cable channels and on the internet. Meeting also accessible by remote participation; see agenda for details.
- Reminder to subscribe for emailed Town news/announcements at <https://www.wnewbury.org/subscribe>

Regular Business

A. Meeting with Landscape Architect Trent Lloyd; presentation of site analysis and conceptual design for Mill Pond All Persons Trail initiative

Trent Lloyd appeared before the Select Board and stated the expansion of the Mill Pond Trail was a long-term goal of the community since 1996 and appeared in multiple Open Space Committee and Recreation Plan reports (see pages 2-87 of the open session packet). Lloyd explained the conceptual design would be edited to include any feedback received during the meeting. Permitting requirements and materials to be used were not determined at this stage of the concept design. Lloyd presented the conceptual design that included the all-access trail, viewing area, a secondary parking area next to the lodge, and the elimination of the road and parking area next to the pond. It was explained that the design was created through comments received from various committees and community members to keep the preservation of the natural beauty and to create further accessibility for the public.

Lloyd and the Select Board discussed emergency vehicle access to the waterfront, maneuverability of emergency vehicles in the area proposed, and whether it was feasible to create such an area. Jennings reviewed communication received from Paul Seigny, Health Agent, concerning the location of the septic area and the inspection required to determine if the load bearing capability would accommodate the weight of the vehicles discussed.

Deborah Hamilton raised concerns for the accessibility of loading kayaks/boats into the pond with the elimination of the road and the desire to create a horse trail by the water's edge. Discussion from various Board/Committee members present at the meeting continued surrounding the proposed viewing areas, picnic tables with ADA compliance, and the addition of the secondary parking area next to the lodge.

Patricia Reeser stated the original CPC application voted at Town Meeting was for all-access trail and believed the current proposal had lost sight for what town voted to approve with the addition of the parking updates. It was clarified that the parking updates were included in the Open Space application. Discussion continued surrounding the parking updates. Lloyd stated the parking updated could be delayed and the construction of the trail could be completed first.

The Select Board and various Board/Committee members present at the meeting discussed concerns surrounding wheelchair access to the waterfront, the materials used to create the appearance of a natural path, and connecting the lodge to a trail system for accessibility. Lloyd stated the project could be completed in phases, where phase one could address the trail system and phase two could address the parking updates. Discussion continued on how the town could be competitive in securing the next Mass Trails Grant.

The Select Board decided a working group made up of one member from the Open Space Committee, the Parks & Recreation Commission, and the Mill Pond Committee would share the responsibility of overseeing the project. After further discussion, Lloyd was directed to create a phase one and phase two conceptual design. The phase one conceptual design would highlight the all-access trail and include updated parking for six cars with updated parking signage. The phase two concept design would include the removal of access to the road by the water front and parking updates by the lodge. The concept design drawings would then be circulated among the committees.

Chairperson Archibald made a motion to adjourn. Parker seconded. Open Session adjourned at 7:38pm