

Via Zoom, per State and Federal regulations, start time 6:32pm - Attendees: Ryan Goodwin, chair, Deb Hamilton, Mike Welch, Matt Schwom, Paul Delaney, and Zip Corning. The meeting was later joined in part by Patricia Reeser, Jack Duggan, Nancy Pau and others from West Newbury Wild and Native

- Reading of COVID-19 rules and regulations notice per Gov. Bakers orders
- Announce details regarding Mill Pond being re-opened to non-Residents, provided they wear a mask
- Discussion and update on the Open Space Committee's proposal regarding the All -Access improvements plan to Mill Pond and surrounding environs. This included a review of informative timeline and budgetary documents.
- Followed by a review of the purview of the Mill Pond Committee and its role in terms of support of this proposal, and a reminder of the previously taken 5-3 vote in favor of support
- Discussion of the trail conditions between the Butterfly Garden and Hay Field. Noted that the trail is in rough shape with severe drainage problems. Members suggested and discussed the best methods to correct the problems both short and long term. Ideas and proposals included backfilling the problem area and rebuilding the culvert. Further discussion presented whether or not the small retaining pond is working and whether or not the area needs to be reengineered in order to correct the problem
- Discussion of the erosion and damage around the dyke at the southeastern edge of Mill Pond. Topics included ideas for backfill and repair and whether or not this may be included in Open Space Committee's proposal for All -Access. The Mill Pond Committee decided that regardless of the long-term solution, a short-term solution needs to be addressed and Deb Hamilton will start the process of contacting the Conservation Committee and Conservation Agent in order to see what is feasible for immediate remediation. A site walk and further discussion is likely necessary.
- Committee members discussed refilling dog waste bag dispensers and taking inventory of remaining bags.
- Discussion pertaining to the current state of the informational kiosks present in the upper and lower parking lots. What shape are they in? Is maintenance required? Topics included the need to update the hardware and provide new signage, including Mill Pond policies, rules and regs. Natural environment educational signs, maps, QR codes, etc. Paul Delany, Matt Schwom and Zip Corning to work on ideas and proposals for the kiosks.

- Discussion of the work that was performed at the Alms House Cemetery by Wayne and the DPW. The committee reviewed before and after images and discussed the eventual addition of a marker/plaque by the Historical Commission.

At this time, approximately 7:20pm, local residents and members of the West Newbury Wild and Native Committee joined the meeting regarding their presentation on invasive species, specifically knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*). Jack Duggan presented information regarding a proposal to have a local demonstration of methods to control and eradicate the plant from public and private lands. Jack outlined the details of the intended demonstration including background, management styles and methods, possible locations and indicated that volunteers, interns and potentially a licensed Herbicide Applicator would assist with the project. Nancy Pau offered insight regarding previous experience with eradication techniques. The potential site, between the upper parking lot and RT. 113 and adjacent to the entrance road, was discussed by both committees. Topics included CR feasibility, materials intended to be used, duration, maintenance and interaction. A tentative late summer date was suggested for the demonstration. A 3 year commitment to the project was discussed as being the most suitable timeframe to be able to study and benefit from the gathered data. Further discussion included signage, fencing options, possibilities of applying for grants, and desire for input from the Conservation Committee. The guest committee members exited after this discussion.

- At this time, the Mill Pond Committee made a motion to support the West Newbury Wild and Native Committee.
- The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- A brief discussion about the trail marking proposal and progress. Members will proceed with mapping and logging specific areas and with materials production.
- A discussion about our budget and if there are funds available to help with the aforementioned invasive species demonstration.
- Deb Hamilton provided a summary on the West Newbury Riding Clubs intended usage of Mill Pond and Pipestave in late summer and the potential conflict with Flag Football. Members discussed previous instances of dual usage, steps taken to refine the process and ideas to assist both parties. Discussion included sharing of contact details amongst the parties involved.
- Open Discussion, next meeting scheduled for Wednesday June 23rd 2021.
- End of meeting, approximately 8:30 pm