

*West Newbury Open Space Committee*

**Meeting Minutes – Final**

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Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Second Floor Meeting Room, Town Office Building

**Present:** John Dodge, Wendy Reed, Marlene Switzer, Brad Buschur, Jean Lambert, Carol Decker, and Jessica Azenaro, scribe

**Absent:** Don Bourquard, Patricia Reeser

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

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**1) Trails Manager Update – Wendy Reed**

- a. Draft description to Con Com in favor of Trails Manager adding additional 5 hours/week for trail management duties – Conservation Agent Bert Comins. Town Manager supports the concept - funding source to be determined
- b. Trail Markers
  - i. Carol Decker suggests contacting Brent Baexlack in Rowley
  - ii. Mill Pond Committee Input for markers
  - iii. Spray paint option
- c. Volunteering
  - i. All OSC members to log volunteer hours for fiscal contribution discovery
  - ii. Indemnification forms for heavy equipment – Brad Buschur to check language/adopt Groundwork Lawrence forms
  - iii. Implement multiple town website links for volunteer requests

**2) Article 97/Brake Hill update – John Dodge**

- a. Letter – Water commission supports protection – letter composed in support of separating water department land and easements from the rest. From 113 to Hilltop Circle with water line. Water department would want to determine the fate of their land
- b. Research Article 97 – More research required before decision made

**3) Sullivan Court Trails Update - Wendy Reed**

- a. Proposed Plan – required revisions to comply with Con Comm input NOI and plan submitted without requested changes.
- b. NOI application – Town would be the applicant.
- c. Planning Board bond may be revoked if work incomplete on 2 trails – 1) River Meadow trail and 2) Trail along driveway and path to river overlook. Vegetation near river would preclude river view. Fees for \$130 (legal advertisement for public hearing) and \$300 (environmental review necessary for the river overlook trail as it's in an endangered species habitat area).

**4) Artichoke River Woods Conservation Project Update – John Dodge**

- a. Warrant Article – John Dodge/Wendy Reed attending CPC meeting with Greenbelt on 01/16/2020
- b. Funding – Complex grants/CPC money. Signed POS and grant with DCR.

**5) Beaucher – Lands of Interest – John Dodge**

- a. Cottage Advisers – POS acquired for Beaucher property. Testing current with health agent. 40B evaluation and site eligibility study for housing of up to 240 units including single family, condos and apartments. Ongoing discussions with abutters and Town Manager for information.

6) **Winter Woodland Walks** –Jessica Azenaro

- a. Sign Up Genius – Live with wording from Carol Decker for Withers on Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and Mill Pond on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. 6 currently signed up for Withers and 10 for Mill Pond.
- b. Social Media – Additional social media postings weekend of January 18. Email with maps and parking instructions to be sent out two days prior to hikes with a reminder.

7) **Minutes Review** – All

- a. Motion to approve November 20, 2019 minutes as amended – Unanimous
- b. Motion to approve December 18, 2019 minutes – Unanimous
- c. Motion to approve December 26, 2019 minutes - Unanimous

8) **All Other Business** – All

- a. Springtime Volunteer Events – Brad Buschur
  - i. Earth Day – River cleanup coordination with Deb Hamilton
  - ii. Fish Run – Brad to research timing for eastern chub sucker fish run up the Indian River
    - 1. Fish Ladder – Potential long-term planning if enough interest generated
  - iii. Bittersweet Mitigation – 113 crossing the Indian River – Lopper work coordination
- b. Red Trail – John Dodge
  - i. Talk to stakeholders regarding volunteering for spillways, water bars, and additional trail work
  - ii. Fundraising – Figure out fundraising for Ryan Scanlon to continue work
- c. OSC Chairperson Job Description
  - i. List of responsibilities

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The next meeting of the OSC will be Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Azenaro

**cc: Town Clerk**  
**John Dodge, website**