

*West Newbury Open Space Committee*

**Meeting Minutes – Final**

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Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Teleconference

**Present:** John Dodge, Don Bourquard, Carol Decker, Wendy Reed, Jean Lambert, Marlene Switzer, Patricia Reeser, and Jessica Azenaro, scribe  
**Absent:** Brad Buschur  
**Guests:** Stephanie Bartelt, Groveland Conservation Commission

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

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**1. The Norman Graf Realty Field – Marley, Group**

- a. Discussion postponed since Chris Wile was unable to attend.
- b. 15-acre field with a house (Norman Graf Realty trust.)
- c. Good linking parcel, connects to Mirra, Gingrich, Lovejoy, contiguous property.
- d. Require information regarding number of house lots and cost.

**2. Invasive Plant Species (Stephanie Bartelt from Groveland Conservation Commission) - Group**

- a. Public education needed - proactive collaboration on invasive knotweed and wild roses
- b. iNaturalist - Invasive workshop set up by Nancy Pau using iNaturalist application. Reach out to Nancy Pau regarding a potential similar project in Groveland.
- c. Consider a 2020 date for an invasive plant walk and investigate Mantra webinars and available forestry grants for invasive plant mitigation. Carol Decker to speak with Stephanie Bartelt.
- d. Brake Hill - Combined project possibilities.
- e. Webinars
  - i. Massachusetts Land Trust - all the programs are online.
  - ii. Arboretum, Native Plant Trust, Mass Horticultural also have webinars. Gather speakers to do our own webinar for West Newbury, Groveland focusing on pollinators and why planting native species is important for the environment. Connect with the Garden Club. How do we obtain native species?
- f. Groveland has a master gardener restoring plants at Veasey. Stephanie to source contact information; John Dodge to send contact information for Open Space Members to Stephanie.

**3. Lots for Sale Next to Brown Spring Farm, Right to Farm Bylaw - John Dodge**

- a. Three lots surrounding Brown Spring on 2 sides. Lots are narrow in scope and not much land. \$400K, \$375K, \$350K price range respectively.
- b. Chris Grant contacted Vanessa Johnson Hall at Greenbelt regarding concern for future impact on the view and his ability to farm once lots are sold. Right to farm bylaw investigation required for pre-existing farm for Fall Town Meeting.

- c. Greenbelt suggestion to contact stakeholders on opinions for right to farm bylaw implementation. John Dodge to email selectmen for support.

**4. Dunn Field Haying/Mowing Agreements - Patricia Reeser**

- a. Per Rick Parker, 2014 license agreement to Colby for haying Dunn Field. The license is self renewing at the will of the Selectmen without mention of best management practices or the obligation of Colby to mow/farm the field.
- b. DPW is designated as the authority to discern which fields are designated to farm and/or mow other than Riverbend, which is under Conservation Commission jurisdiction.
- c. Open Space Committee to read existing agreement and look at potential language for a new agreement for Riverbend, Dunn, Mill Pond, and other properties for consideration.
- d. Potential for small farmer use rather than industrial farming.
  - i. Back Lot, South Lot, South West corner areas.
  - ii. Old alfalfa field.
- e. The Conservation Commission reviewed and approved the existing mowing plan.
- f. Mowing plan - Carol Decker to resend and obtain reply from Wayne Amaral.

**5. Town Warrant Article 13 Requesting CPA Money for Artichoke River Woods Project- Group**

- a. Advertising
  - i. Social media posting in West Newbury People and West Newbury News and on personal Facebook pages (John Dodge). Greenbelt mailer.
- b. Desirable land to protect water rights around the well head for West Newbury as well as Open Space. Cost shared between Greenbelt, Newburyport, and state grants.
- c. Advertise Town Meeting closer to June 27th - Specify the time and location reminder.

**6. Coffin Street Project - Project Discussion – Jean Lambert, Group**

- a. Request to follow the writing and editing process recorded in the minutes for future letters and documentation - agreed.
- b. Open Space letter posted on West Newbury Town website and social media sites. Good feedback. 350 pages of combined town documentation submitted to the state.
- c. Vernal Pool - in process of certification. Additional photos required.
- d. Septic
  - i. Potential leach field - bordered by wetlands. Both sides of the field, wetlands are down slopes.
  - ii. Understanding septic approval and Title V process required.
- e. ZBA - proposed regulations
  - i. July 2nd is the next hearing.
  - ii. ZBA tabled discussion on comments sent by Patricia Reeser - allowed that the comments could be amended.
  - iii. Guidelines
    - 1. Wendy - stated that state wetlands regulations provide protection within 100 feet of wetlands and resource areas and 200 feet from rivers and streams. Protection of endangered species falls under the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.
- f. 40B Standards
  - i. Cottage Advisors may need to announce any additional changes to plans prior to the July 2nd meeting.
  - ii. 60 days from the document submission day to change ZBA rules and regulations.

**7. Minutes Approval – Jessica Azenaro**

- a. 20 May 2020 - motion to approve the minutes as amended - Unanimous.
- b. 27 May 2020 - motion to approve the minutes as amended - Unanimous.
- c. 30 May 2020 - motion to approve the minutes as amended - Unanimous.

**8. All Other Business**

- a. Open Space Committee - discussion around potential Open Space Committee additions should Brad Buschur resign due to his Park and Recreation role.
- b. Cutting Trees - Email from Rich Banks forwarded to OSC

The next meeting of the OSC will be Thursday, July 16, 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26PM.

**Addendum to Meeting Notice regarding Remote Participation**

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the West Newbury Open Space Committee will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible.

Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Town of West Newbury website, at [www.wnewbury.org](http://www.wnewbury.org). For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner:

Goto Meeting video conference:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/888316181>  
Dial in-United States: +1 (669) 224-3412  
Access Code: 888-316-181

No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of West Newbury website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as practicable after the meeting.