

*West Newbury Open Space Committee*  
**Meeting Minutes – Draft**

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Thursday, March 27, 2020  
Teleconference

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 p.m.

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- 1) Rogers Site Walk** - John Dodge
  - a. Friday, March 27, 2020 - 3:00PM
  - b. 5 person limit to observe COVID-19 pandemic social distancing protocol, meet at Middle Street
  - c. Future Executive Session - Vanessa Johnson-Hall - Essex County Greenbelt for the purpose of discussing this property
- 2) Minutes Review** – All
  - a. Motion to approve February 12 minutes, as amended – Unanimous
- 3) Neve Update** - Wendy Reed
  - a. Board of Selectmen are being advised that trails need to be ADA compliant, which the OSC question; needs further research. Looking into options should Neve refuse to install.
  - b. 2 bridges required for wetland crossings/existing trail connections - \$10K bond amount from developer not enough to build these crossings.
  - c. Research Planning Board minutes
  - d. Consider potential CPC request in concert with bond to fund bridges.
- 4) Butterflies and Bees/Tree Committee** - Marlene Switzer
  - a. Educational outreach - Garden Club, Black Birch Farm Apiary suggestions for plantings that will attract birds and butterflies. Talks in the Town Library or Town Annex.
  - b. Postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic
  - c. Open Space Website Post - Post wording on the website regarding plantings of perennials, other items as an interim measure. Carol to forward information from Mass Audubon to John Dodge.
  - d. Tree Committee - Arbor Day event cancelled - COVID-19
- 5) Spring Walks/Date Change** - Jessica Azenaro
  - a. March 23/26 for Brake Hill - Cancelled
  - b. Reestablish dates after COVID-19 pandemic restriction measures end
- 6) Brake Hill Wrap-Up** - John Dodge
  - a. Town Warrant article for Brake Hill recalled for Spring.
  - b. Reconnect with Vanessa Johnson-Hall for update in April
  - c. Due diligence to be determined prior to Fall Town Meeting - In line with Open Space Plan to preserve municipal property into protected space for the future enjoyment of West Newbury
  - d. Justin Bartholomew - John to contact regarding science educational possibilities on this property
- 7) Park & Rec and WNRDC Issue** - Brad Buschur
  - a. September 13 booking issue for Pipestave Hill fields
  - b. Encourage amicable solution between parties in the interest of the town and the Open Space Committee's commitment to Dunn Field

**8) Beaucher Update - Jean Lambert/Group**

- a. Cottage Advisors Land Purchase - Main Street - 0.50 acre parcel for water/egress
- b. 40B Application - Plans not yet submitted to the Mass Housing Authority. Zoning Board of Appeals for feedback - 30 day comment period extended to June due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- c. Right of Way - Conflict/issues with the cul-de-sac off Cortland without deed recorded or delivered
- d. Planning Board/Zoning Board - Chip Hall to meet with Zoning Board in future 40B
- e. Coffin Street - Traffic concern with narrowness, dangerous curves, and many hills on Coffin Street. Potential for traffic light request at Main Street.

**9) All Other Business**

- a. Frogs - Carol Decker
  - i. Collaboration with Nancy Pau - virtual project in iNaturalist to map frogs, salamanders, and other wildlife in West Newbury, Essex County
  - ii. Posting - Carol to write up wording for West Newbury People, West Newbury News
  - iii. Jen Solis - Marley to contact Jen Solis for a potential article
- b. Massachusetts Land Conference
  - i. March 28/Worcester - Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic
- c. Mass Open Space Conference
  - i. April 25/Greenfield - Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

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The next meeting of the OSC will be April 15, 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Azenaro

cc: Town Clerk  
John Dodge, website

**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 limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the West Newbury [BOARD/COMMISSION/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: Call in # (712) 770-4700, password 617584 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.**