

*West Newbury Open Space Committee*

**Meeting Minutes**

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Wednesday, November 18, 2020  
7:00PM

GoTo Meeting Video Conference  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/246611173>  
You can also dial in using your phone.  
United States: +1 (872) 240-3212  
Access Code: 246-611-173

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

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**1. 40B Approval Letter and Next Steps - J. Dodge, W. Reed, J. Lambert**

- a. Provisional approval for development based on Zoning Board of Appeals.
- b. Developer currently testing water on the leach field and running water for a week; requested permission at the Water Commission Meeting
- c. Same issues we raised with Mass Housing should be raised with the ZBA. Issues mentioned are traffic, conservation, and water.
- d. Conservation Commission requesting a 3rd party for wetlands delineation. A public hearing will occur in the beginning of December. Delineation of the resource areas will be based on soils, so the lack of vegetation in winter and recent drought conditions will not impact this work.
- e. Town Counsel is researching the next steps with the Town Manager. J. Dodge to send a note to Angus on status of legal opinion. Next step is Chip Hall going to the ZBA.
- f. Kim Monihan is the new full member of the Zoning Board. She has experience with 40B projects from the finance end.
- g. Traffic study was one of the things to call out.

**2. River Hill Trail Problems - M. Switzer**

- a. DPW and an engineer came out to inspect the area off of Whetstone. Trail width is on a slope on the side of the wetlands; on the other side is an infiltration trench where sediment is filtered into the gravel during rain events and some goes beyond.
- b. People are using the gravel portion as a trail.
- c. Decision by DPW to remove the sediment and clearly mark the trail off of Whetstone. Potential for split rail along the parking area and signage with arrows so people do not walk in private yards.
- d. Call for additional ideas to identify trail boundaries.

### **3. How to Build Water Bars - M. Switzer, B. Buschur**

- a. Discussion on building water bars, a feature used on cleared paths throughout trails that uses a diagonal channel diverting surface water off the path and into a stable drain way. Sullivan Court is steep and not everyone has the same ability to travel on hills.
- b. Water bars are straightforward to implement. B. Buschur suggests a site walk to discuss circumstances and specs.

### **4. Mowing and Invasives Update - C. Decker**

- a. Email sent to Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager, copy to J. Dodge by C. Decker regarding the 10/19/20 meeting stating the OSC is not an outside entity dictating the needs of the Town. No response.
- b. Nancy Pau and Garden Club members looking at non-native species in the community to educate those interested about invasive species at the 12/19/20 MVP meeting.
- c. Natural Resource Conservation Services may be able to come out to the town, see what grants may be available, and present the information to the town.
- d. Target focus on Cherry Hill and Indian Hill fields. Bigger plan required. Grants through Massachusetts Wildlife Management for meadow restoration a possibility for these fields and Riverbend.
- e. Potential survey to West Newbury residents regarding opinion on fields for agricultural, environmental and recreational update.
- f. Open Space Website - winter update - outreach and education one-pager prior to survey.
- g. Schedule meetings with DPW on who mows what area, contracts in place, and also include Bert/ConCom to determine responsibility for specific areas.
- h. Attach correspondence to 18 Nov 2020 meeting minutes for record.

### **5. Mass Trails Grant Application and Deadlines - P. Reeser**

- a. Deadline in February of 2020 for grant.
- b. Mill Pond - Follow-up mail sent to Mill Pond Committee for an All Access Trail. Need to decide location, permission from MPC and BOS prior to requesting grant.
- c. 20% match or 30% match requirement. May request for in-kind.
  - i. Warrants for Spring Town meeting close at the end of January.
  - ii. If conservation property, the Conservation Commission may be able to provide the match.
  - iii. Project Management - Town is missing out due to lack of project management experience.
  - iv. Waterfront area considered for trail.
- d. Pike's Bridge Road - potential opportunity.
- e. Invitation to Sam Joslin for ADA recommendations in a future OSC meeting.
- f. Groundwork in feasibility and design to cultivate support and build. Feasibility and permitting costs as well as hiring a design firm for consideration.
- g. Survey and delineation - \$5K.

### **6. New Business - All**

- a. Greenbelt Free Webinar Series - registration required at [ecga.org/conference](https://ecga.org/conference). J.Dodge webinar on Networking and Conservation is 12/10/20.
- b. Deer Run Property Site Walk
  - i. B. Buschur site walk 11/10/20 with Michael Crow, Deb Hamilton, Carol Loyd, Ellen Alden and an abutter.

- ii. Current owners of Ellen Alden's former property will not negotiate on easement.
  - iii. Developer adamant about traditional subdivision approach and taking a hard line against obtaining special permits.
  - iv. Planning Board meeting in early December to continue discussion.
  - v. Incorporate the trails into the planning process rather than an afterthought.
  - vi. Major link - Piece of Austin to Poor House Lane.
  - vii. Discussion regarding supporting ECTA easement or donation of the section to Town.
- c. OSC Primary Goal
  - i. BOS has issued an invitation to a goal setting meeting - 3 minutes to present
  - ii. Advance goals of Open Space Plan including;
    - 1. Mass trails grant application for a town trail.
    - 2. Town wide field management plan.
    - 3. Cooperating with MVP invasive species education and management in town.
    - 4. Foster a greater trail network.
- d. Grew Property
  - i. Grew is retaining the waterfront properties and the main property will remain as 2 separate parcels.
  - ii. Fewer than 5 acres cannot be 61A. If property comes out of Chapter 61, Town has the right to make an offer based on appraisals. Triggers RFR to Town.
- e. CPC Annual Review Meeting 11/19/20

The next meeting of the OSC will be December 9th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

#### 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:

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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.