

West Newbury Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes

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Wednesday, September 16, 2020
GoTo Meeting Video Conference
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/757320749>
You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (571) 317-3112
Access Code: 757-320-749

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

Guest: Ryan Goodwin, Mill Pond Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Motion for Executive Session was called by P. Reeser, 2nd by J. Lambert. Called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Motion to conclude Executive Session by P. Reeser, 2nd by D. Bourquard. Regular session resumes at 7:19 p.m.

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1. Cherry Hill Field and Mowing - C. Decker

- a. Wide swath of mowing near the reservoir fields.
- b. Invasives on the Cherry Hill Street side - Autumn Olive, rose, phragmites along with good plants like milkweed.
- c. Bigger plan required - Grants through Massachusetts Wildlife Management for meadow restoration a possibility here and in Riverbend.
- d. PR - Discuss set of restrictions on the Cherry Hill parcel with obligations to keep it clear of shrubbery and trees.

2. All Access Trail Discussion and River Access - P. Reeser/Guest R. Goodwin

- a. Mill Pond
 - i. Discussion regarding appropriate place for an all access trail from Mill Pond parking area around the corner of the pond to Poor House Lane. South, turning right westward and continuing around the pond to a cul-de-sac and easy turn around for wheelchairs.
 - ii. Potential grading concerns and Conservation Commission restrictions.
 - iii. Low-rise boardwalk capability due to tree routes suggested; language in prohibition against permanent structures may suit a boardwalk and gravel but not guardrails or fencing.
 - iv. Request all access trail idea be presented to the Mill Pond Committee Board to spearhead the project.

- v. P. Reeser to send grant information to R. Goodwin, along with Audubon guidelines.
 - vi. Discussion regarding a broader master plan funded with CPA to put together projects and combine the needs for recreation, equestrian, and all access trails. Better engagement by collaborating together for Pipestave, Dunn, and Mill Pond - B. Buschur
 - 1. Mill Pond CR does not allow for permanent structures as a protection mechanism to secure and ensure lack of development on a natural area. Part of the master plan could address constraints. As West Newbury changes, the document should be revisited in a thoughtful measured way to include collaboration.
 - vii. Future engagement between the Mill Pond and Open Space Committees after the next Mill Pond Committee meeting. Date TBD.
 - b. River Access
 - i. Town bandwidth issue on interest for River Meadow at this time. Revisit in 2021.
 - ii. Ferry Lane - Title search, R12-1A and R12-1B.
- 3. Sullivan's Court Update - W. Reed/J. Dodge**
- a. Contractor brought in for quote on bridge over Sullivan's Court
 - b. Separate contractor for quote on trail portion through the interior and another boardwalk.
 - c. Discussion - cost may recommend waiting for Bob Weatherall.
 - d. Materials over \$10K. Warrant article for Spring 2021.
 - e. WR - Abutters could apply for CPC grant approval and potentially take the lead.
 - f. The end of Sullivan's Court is town property and needs maintenance. Coordinate with Burt.
- 4. Town Meeting - October 17 - M. Switzer**
- a. Warrant article submitted to Town Manager for Dunn bog bridges in August.
- 5. New Business - All**
- a. Cherry Hill Fields - C. Decker
 - i. No current management plan for maintenance.
 - ii. Future line item for DPW - Trail Maintenance/Field Management.
 - iii. C. Decker to discuss site walk with Wayne Amaral and John Dodge.
 - b. Deer Run Project - D. Bourquard
 - i. Discussion to move ahead project at October planning board meeting.
 - ii. Small 3 duplex development across from Long Hill Farm.
 - iii. Development north of the power lines. Suggestion for a trail easement to cross at the south end desirable.
 - c. Minutes - J. Azenaro
 - i. 16 Jul 2020 Minutes - motion to approve the minutes as amended - Unanimous.
 - ii. 10 Aug 2020 Minutes - motion to approve the minutes as amended - Unanimous.
 - iii. 10 Aug 2020 Executive Session minutes - delay approval until October meeting.
 - iv. 25 Aug 2020 Minutes - delay approval until October meeting.

The next meeting of the OSC will be October 21st, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 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. 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.