

West Newbury Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes

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Wednesday, August 18, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Please Join Zoom or In-Person Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8960752005>

Meeting ID: 896 075 2005

Present: John Dodge, Jessica Azenaro, Marlene Switzer, Graham Bacheller, Kathy Feehery
and Carol Decker, scribe

Absent: Patricia Reeser, Jean Lambert, Don Bourquard

Guests: Wendy Reed, Brad Buschur

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

1) All Access Trail at Sullivan's Court

- a) Brad Buschur said that he has been soliciting proposals for the All Access Trail, which will connect the River Meadow and River Hill developments, and will present it to the CPC at their August 19 meeting. He found someone to flag the resource area for no-fee. He has reached out to Mary Rotter for a proposal and will need to get through the planning and concept phase and then figure out next steps. There was a brief discussion about available money for the project.

2) Discussion of Recreation Needs for Pipestave and Dunn Field

- a) Brad B. said at the last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting there was an idea raised to amend the CR on Pipestave so they could add lights for night activities, compostable toilets and artificial turf for additional sporting activities. He said there continues to be a need for more recreational fields. If Pipestave could be used for more recreational needs, they would propose working with Greenbelt to put a more restrictive CR on Dunn Field. Brad wanted the backing of OSC members to work on this. He said otherwise there will be further pressure to have playing fields and bathrooms built on Dunn Fields. Parks and Recreation has already built a storage shed. Kathy F. noted that the Riding and Driving Club continues to have multiple problems being able to use Pipestave for riding activities and cannot even have their regular events due to increased recreation activities. Noted also was the Pipestave parking lot which cannot accommodate all the cars and is dangerous. Brad said this issue is not going away and OSC should seriously consider working with him to amend the CR.

b) Brad B. closed by saying that the Nathan Dennis property of 14 acres is probably coming up for sale and the OSC should work on acquiring a CR on this valuable property.

3) Updates on Projects

- a) Knapps Greenhouse - Vanessa Johnson-Hall from ECGA (Greenbelt) reached out to the Marshalls, but they told her they were not ready to discuss their property.
- b.) Sullivan's Court - Marley S. spoke to a surveyor who said he was gathering as-built specs as the developer is seeking release of the bond he posted with the Town. She had hoped he was there to survey the All-Access Trail.
- c.) Deer Run - Complaints of large amounts of standing water; Wendy R. said this should be corrected once the infiltration system is installed.
- d.) Climate Resiliency Committee - Patrica R. is stepping down and it would be good to have another OSC member on this committee.

4) Kimball Road Property

- a) Wendy R. said that she had met with the owners who own the land at the back of the Kimball property. They are interested in having their land used to further expand the hiking opportunities of the Kimball property. However, the price for the Kimball property remains very high. Wendy said the average selling price for land the Town has purchased was \$20,000 per acre. This would be \$200,000 per acre. The Select Board will make a decision soon.

5) Bridge at Dunn Field

- a) Kathy F. said she would reach out to Eric Beard who built the unapproved bridge as improvements such as decking need to be made. Wendy R. said the project will need an RDA and be submitted to the Con Comm.

6) Items Not Reasonably Anticipated

- a) Marlene S. mentioned the recent news that Nourishing the North Shore Community Gardens was seeking a new site after the monks with the Society of St. John the Evangelist did not renew their agreement to use the Emery House property. Marley suggested inviting the NNS Director to the next OSC meeting to discuss needs.

7) Approve Minutes

- a) Marlene S. made a motion to approve the June 16 and July 22 minutes. Carol D. seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

8) Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm

The next meeting of the OSC will be Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Decker