

West Newbury Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes – Final

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Open Space Committee
Wednesday, May 19, 2021
7 p.m.
Please Join Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/93895809056?pwd=WmkxUXVUY2tyS083OVlDeFdncG16dz09>
Meeting ID: 938 9580 9056
Passcode: 724933

Present: John Dodge, Wendy Reed, Don Bourquard, Marlene Switzer, Jean Lambert,
Brad Buschur, Carol Decker, and Jessica Azenaro, scribe
Absent: Patricia Reeser
Guest: Vanessa Johnson-Hall, Essex County Greenbelt

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. Strategize for Town Meeting - Group

- a. Article 14, Coffin St. - All
 - i. Vanessa in touch with Angus about posters and handouts and on the list of non-residents who can speak at Town Meeting.
 - ii. John Dodge will make the motion for Article 14 and post FAQ on social media.
 - iii. Using the Site walk map for handout to specify conservation benefits are for the Town.
 - iv. Volunteers to help pass out materials - C. Decker, M. Switzer, J. Dodge, Jean Lambert for 9:15AM setup.
 - v. Description surrounding vote totals 3 lines for approval of Article 14 and 2 paragraphs for nays - highly editorial and not factually correct.
 - vi. Focus on the positive benefits:
 1. Highlight the conservation restriction is eliminating development potential.
 2. The value of purchase price is half of appraised market value.BB - Compelling arguments. Lack of protection of the frontage lots.
 3. Owners of the CR's can allow public accessible trails.
- b. Mill Pond Article - B. Buschur
 - i. Mill Pond is the most visited natural area for West Newbury residents. Survey and trail work will benefit the Town even if the Mass Trails grant funding does not come through.
 - ii. J. Dodge to read the motion for Mill Pond.
 - iii. B. Buschur and M. Switzer to discuss and create a one-pager PowerPoint pdf describing all access trails for Town Meeting handout literature.

- c. Whetstone Greenway - B. Buschur
 - i. ADA bog bridge recommended.
 - ii. Corridor is well used by younger residents going from Whetstone to Main Street.
 - iii. A variance would be needed from the Architectural Access Board.
 - iv. Groundwork Lawrence group had a more relaxed approach to all access.
 - v. \$30K requested for design, permitting, and construction.
 - vi. Circulate Lawrence report that was sent to Sam Joselin and Town Manager.
- 2. Brake Hill Land Hilltop Excavation - M. Switzer**
 - a. Discussion surrounding large excavation by developer.
 - b. Discussion for Article 97 alignment.
- 3. Kimball Road - All**
 - a. P. Reeser email recommending declining the Town's right of first refusal at the current deal. If the deal changes, the right of first refusal (RFR) is in play again.
 - b. Discussion on recommendation for Select Board to decline the right of first refusal as relates to the Kimball Property for \$1.1M offer only for June 2021 meeting.
- 4. All Other Business**
 - a. Mullen Property - J. Azenaro to take pictures of changes to Mullen Woods trails.
 - b. Open Space Committee Members
 - i. Wendy Reed stepped down from committee after her election to the Select Board. Judy Mizner to succeed Wendy as the ConComm representative.
 - ii. J. Lambert recommends Kathy Feehery to join OSC.
 - iii. Graham Bachelor is also interested in an OSC position.
 - iv. J. Azenaro to step down to associate member and recommends Carol Decker for full membership role.
 - c. Meeting Minutes
 - i. Approval for April Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Meeting Minutes delayed to June to give all time to review.
 - ii. Decide on replacement meeting minutes scribe in June session.
 - d. Trail Hikes
 - i. Decide on 2021 trail walks/yearly hike in June session.

The next meeting of the OSC will be Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Azenaro

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:

Zoom Meeting:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

Join Zoom Meeting

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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.