

*West Newbury Open Space Committee*

**Meeting Minutes – Final**

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

7:00PM (Late due to Mill Pond Committee Meeting @ 6:30PM)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/566568173>

**You can also dial in using your 11111phone.**

United States: +1 (872) 240-3311

**Access Code: 566-568-173**

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**Present:** John Dodge, Don Bourquard, Carol Decker, Wendy Reed, Jean Lambert, Marlene Switzer,

Brad Buschur, Patricia Reeser, and Jessica Azenaro, scribe

**Guests:** Joel Gordon, Sandy Berkenbush

The meeting was called to order at 7:46 p.m.

**14 Kimball Road - Joel Gordon**

- Interested to know of any local coalitions to keep the 5 acres as open land.
- 350K/house lot (1.05M); 2 lots at 1.81, 1.57.
- Greenbelt does not have ideas due to the steep price and does not buy house lots (Patricia Reeser).
- Property was on the market summer 2020 without completed septic designs or approvals for planning board, septic, etc. Market for 3-4 weeks, 2 offers from developers that were full price, seller decided to shut it down due to septic and development costs. *The owners wanted* approvals in place before putting it on the market. Would be thrilled if it ends up as an open field. Preserved 12 acres in perpetuity. Conversation around this may be high for lots in WN, 2 full-priced offers mean on task with the price. Plan and septic design, once the Board of Health and Planning Board are done, concise parameters on what will go on with that specific plan.
- Joel Gordon has an offer on the 8 acres. Discussion regarding possibility of smaller stakeholders to aggregate and purchase.
- Abutters are interested in preserving. Sandy Berkenbush, the Myopia Hunt Club and myopia hunt club, the other abutter at the old house. Facebook page has the core group contacts.

**Mill Pond/All Access Trails Discussion/MassTrails Grant - B. Buschur**

- The Mill Pond Committee voted 5/3 in favor to limit the trail from the gate to around the pond to the trail ending in 2 fallen trees - expanded to include the dock. Discussion about the middle parking lot, how it should be rather than as it is. Circle back with Ryan.

- Division among the members on the specifics of the general proposal on what we would ask a designer to design to allow the freedom to take a look at the larger picture without incorporating the entire recreation area and keep dimensions of B. Buschur's drawing.
- No one has the answer on the right amount of parking.
- MPC Voted to withhold the support until they saw scope for the design work. Not sure about meeting the grant deadline. Dependent on Mill Pond Committee's next meeting.
- January 2021 is the CPC. A general marker needed rather than a full proposal.
- Education necessary on what all-access trails mean and why all-access trails are important.
- Once state money is accepted for a project, the property cannot restrict access.
- Demographics - West Newbury has an older population and people are aging in place. Not many opportunities for recreation. Official part of the goals of the recreation plan.
- Examples from Greenbelt's property focused on all-access trails on the Essex River.

#### **Sullivan Court - W. Reed**

- Currently have \$10K for Sullivan Court trail. Requesting additional \$10-15K from CPC for a boardwalk and encourage local residents spearhead trail work.
- 40ft interior crossing and 75 ft stream crossing required. Trail is currently on town land and we have to meet prevailing wage requirements.
- Fought for the Sullivan Court trail and we do not want to see it disappear. Suggestion for the Open Space Committee to join the Park and Recreation committee with additional support of the Planning Board.

#### **MVP Update - W. Reed**

- Invasives talk with Nancy Pau - a green fair with tables and information, which would be a good opportunity to connect with the Energy Advisory Group, Garden Club, and gain input from other committees.
- In person - tentatively - May or September - Live near the bandstand.
- Discussion about establishing an internship program. Invasives, ConCom conservation restriction monitoring, looking into the legalities and insurance.

#### **Grew Update/Coffin/Beaucher Property Discussion - J. Lambert**

- Grew's planning/engineering people displayed the map with a house on the 4-acre lot toward the river. Impression: they did not want to cut down a lot of trees.
- Septic system was way off. Crossing a wetland with the septic is problematic in a defined natural heritage area with a known bald eagle nest.
- There was an issue with original plans.
- Beaucher
  - Possible vernal pool discussion with Kathy Feehery. Current progress with the leach field and abutting wetlands.
  - Developer will not allow ConCom to monitor testing.
- Lot under construction has 4 acres of land with one house that was sold as a waterfront lot in The Glades.

#### **Tree Issues**

- Riverbend

- Leaning trees on Pikes Mill Bridge in Riverbend rubbing against the bridge rail.
  - Trees can be notched out so they are not rubbing against the railing.
  - Contact DPW and tree warden for remedy.
- Tree committee designated heritage trees - one of them is in the middle of the Beaucher property.
- The town does not have any protective bylaw for private property regarding trees.
- Permits required to cut down a tree depending on girth.
- State requires no clear cutting of trees on the property.

### **BOS Meeting Recap - J. Dodge**

- Submitted Open Space Committee goals for 2021 to the Board of Selectmen;
  - Mass trails grant application for a town trail.
  - Town wide field management plan.
  - Cooperating with MVP invasive species education and management in town.
  - Foster a greater trail network.

### **Additional Items**

- River Access
  - Additional discussion of river access at Ferry Lane Park . Title issues on the state land.
  - Parcel lines drawn incorrectly. 24 months until the Town can consider movement on property.
  - Ferry Park - Parks and Rec jurisdiction. Lots of interest for people to use cartop boats.
- Trail at River Road Preservation Area has been flagged. Dave Rimmer hopeful for spring 2021 work.

The next meeting of the OSC will be Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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### **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:

Go To 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.