

*West Newbury Open Space Committee*

**Meeting Minutes – Final**

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Wednesday, February 17, 2021  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/518281573>  
You can also dial in using your phone.  
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122  
Access Code: 518-281-573

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

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

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**1. Beaucher update - Vanessa Johnson-Hall**

- a. Verbal agreement with LLC to acquire the 30 acres in fee, CR, trail easements on 21 more acres. Total to be preserved 51 acres plus easements for access with a \$250K purchase price. \$175K to be sought from CPA; \$75K from private fundraising by Greenbelt. Attorney working on P & S, application to CPC this week.
- b. Optimistic Town interactions.
- c. Other trails on the table.
- d. CPA application submission requires approved minutes.
- e. Parking - some parking with trail access from the trail parking area is a contingency to the agreement in the P&S.
- f. Motion to cosponsor request for \$175K in CPA funds to contribute towards the acquisition and preservation of 51 acres. Motion by J. Dodge, 2nd by J. Lambert. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Mill Pond All Access Trail - P. Reeser**

- a. Motion to apply for CPA funds in the amount of \$63K for design consultant, survey work, wetland flagging for an all access trail at Mill Pond ( \$30,000 of the amount to be required matching funds for and reimbursable through a Mass Trails Grant should the town receive the requested \$33,000 grant) by P. Reeser. 2nd by M. Switzer.
- b. Motion to include language to prior motion 2a that in the event the Mass Trails grant is not received, \$30K requested from the CPC will be used for site survey, delineation, and public participation. Motion by P. Reeser, 2nd by M. Switzer. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Report on Land Agent's plan for next year - Wendy Reed**

- a. Land Agent Update
- i. Charge was to monitor trails and coordinate significant work with the DPW. The budget request was for 5 hours per week, received 2 hours approval per week, which is weekend work.
- ii. After familiarizing with trails, several issues were addressed: work needed at Ocean Meadow, he managed the breakdown of the platform built at Withers, work at Brake Hill, and the tree issue at Riverbend.
- iii. The Con Comm is proposing to use funds from the Wetlands Protection Revolving Fund to pay for 3 hours per week of administrative work paid for the to free up an additional 3 hours per week for trail work.
- iv. Looking for feedback about how we want to prioritize trail work as there is no current mechanism to report trail issues. The Land Agent would rather have people to say where there were issues.
- v. Create a link on the OSC webpage or recommend another reporting mechanism.
- vi. Limited tools, list of tools that would be helpful, request OSC to pay for trail tools for (Bert) him to use.
- vii. General overview - ECTA evaluating apps for reporting trail conditions. Carol Decker and Don Bourquard are interested to take part in the beta test.
- viii. Electric chainsaw, paint, screws, loppers, equipment bag needed.
- ix. Motion to spend up to \$400 from the Open Space Committee budget for tools for the Land Agent trail maintenance by J. Azenaro 2nd by D. Bourquard. Motion adopted unanimously.
- x. Decision to place a link or email address on the OSC site as a first step to come after the next BOS meeting.

**4. Internship supervision subcommittee - Wendy Reed**

- a. Revolving funds will not work for supervising the interns.
- b. Warrant article in the spring town meeting.
- c. OSC can have a subcommittee to supervise the interns.
- d. Carol Decker and Patricia Reeser volunteer as subcommittee.

**5. Funding request for Doug Tallamy lecture - Patricia Reeser**

- a. Author of Bringing Nature Home. Persuasive teacher and speaker, knowledgeable about pollinators, invasive species, and native plants. Subcommittee of MVP committee morphed into WN2, which is partnering with WN Gardening (Garden Club) club, Gulf of Maine Institute and OSC to kick off the educational session on why invasives are bad, natives are good with a webinar with Tallamy on April 28th. His speaking fee is \$500; OSC share would be \$167.
- b. Motion to approve spending \$167 from the OSC budget for Doug Tallamy lecture by P. Reeser, 2nd by D. Bourquard. Motion unanimously approved.
- c. Nature's Best Hope - Mr. Tallamy's new book about all of the things individuals can do to help.
- d. LYME CT. Library program on Thursday, 2/18 regarding pollinator pathways at 7:00PM. Register at [programreg@lymepl.org](mailto:programreg@lymepl.org)

**6. Minutes Approval - Jessica Azenaro**

- a. Minutes for December 9, 2020. Motion to approve minutes as amended by J. Lambert, 2nd by P. Reeser. Minutes unanimously approved.

- b. Minutes for January 20, 2021. Motion to approve minutes as amended by J. Lambert, 2nd by P. Reeser. Minutes unanimously approved.
- c. Minutes for Executive Session January 20, 2021. Motion to approve minutes as amended by J. Lambert, 2nd by P. Reeser. Minutes unanimously approved.

**7. All Other Business - All**

- a. Open space conference - March 4, 11, 18, 25  
<https://massopenspaceconference.wordpress.com/conference-program-and-schedule/>
- b. Mt. Grace Land Trust Catherine Sutcliffe
- c. Mass Land Trust Conference - March 19, 20 [ <https://massland.org/conference>

The next meeting of the OSC will be Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 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:

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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.