

*West Newbury Open Space Committee*

**Meeting Minutes**

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Wednesday, January 27, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Please Join Zoom or In-Person Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 896 075 2005

**Present:** John Dodge, Patricia Reeser, Graham Bacheller, Jean Lambert, Don Bourquard,  
Jessica Azenaro, Kathy Feehery, and Carol Decker, scribe

**Absent:** Marlene Switzer

**Guest:** Wendy Reed

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1) Notification on Activity on Parcels by the Town and Town Boards**

- a) Graham B. asked if there are ways for OSC to be notified when parcels for sale come up. John D. advised looking at the Planning Board agenda. However, Wendy R. noted that by the time the parcels make it to the Planning Board, it is usually too late for OSC to be effective. Graham B. said that as an example when Poorhouse Lane made it on the Planning Board agenda, the owner and his attorney had already approached the Town about building two houses. Don B. said he used to attend Planning Board meetings to be informed of parcels and Wendy R. took his place and attended. John D. advised OSC members to look at the Planning Board agenda and ask questions of Town Planner Leah Zambenardi or to go in and look at proposed plans for best results. Ann Bardeen is also on the Planning Board and Deb Hamilton is a new Associate member.

**2) Safe Routes Meeting and Walk**

- a) Kathy F. attended a meeting at Page School concerning a crossing for school children to Pipestave Hill. The Town is seeking grant money for a crossing and a traffic study will be conducted later this spring when lots of Parks and Recreation activities will be happening. Patricia R. asked if a pedestrian and wildlife crossing under the road would be possible and Kathy F. said the cost would be too high.

**3) Mass Open Space Conference**

- a) John D. said information on the conference had been emailed to members. The conference is on-line, free, and he wanted OSC members to attend sessions, if possible.

#### **4) Conservation Agent and Open Space Involvement**

- a) Michelle Greene is the new Conservation Committee agent and, as part of her duties, she is to attend OSC meetings. Five hours per week have been added on for Land Agent assignments which include attending OSC monthly meetings as well as being aware of and addressing Open Space parcels throughout the Town. It seems Michelle G. has too much to do already and has been told not to attend the OSC meetings. This issue needs further attention.

#### **5) FY 2022 Budget, Debts and Trail Markers**

- a) John D. asked if \$750 was enough for the OSC budget, which led into a discussion on better trail markers and updates to Open Space trail maps. John D. said the trail markers ECGreenbelt installed at the new River Road Reservation look nice and questioned if our trail markers should be updated. The Mill Pond Committee is also looking at improved trail markers and Kathy F. suggested that getting all groups together to discuss the best system to use would be good. Steve Greason's maps of Open Space properties are colorful and user friendly, but need to be updated with the correct OSC website. These are maps that Don B. had originally made. Jessica A. said she may be able to update maps. There was further discussion on the costs of maps and trail markers. Jessica A. made a motion to increase the OSC budget to \$1500 due to possible costs associated with trail updates and Don B. seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

#### **6) What Does It Mean To Be an "MBTA Adjacent" Community?**

- a) Under the new, January 2021, MA Zoning Bill, West Newbury would be considered among other "served communities" that abut a city or town that hosts MBTA service. This new ruling is still in draft, but an MBTA community would need a zoning ordinance or by-law that provides at least one district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted. If Towns do not comply, they would be denied State grants. Wendy R. said this issue will need more review and consideration to understand how best to proceed.

#### **7) Items Not Reasonably Anticipated at Time of Posting**

- a) Trent LLOYD landscape architect for the Mill Pond project, would like to discuss the latest proposal with the OSC. John D. will invite her to speak at the next meeting on February 16.
- b) Wendy R. said the At-Large Member on the CPC should be filled by an OSC member. Patricia R is currently serving in that role, but her membership is not permanent. A warrant article would need to be written, then passed at the next Town Meeting. A motion was made by Jean L. to submit an article to the Town Warrant for the At-Large Member to always be an OSC member which was seconded by Don B. The motion was unanimously passed.

Jessica A. made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Don B. The motion was unanimously passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Decker

