

West Newbury Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 16, 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, Graham Bacheller, Jean Lambert, Don Bourquard, Jessica Azenaro, and Carol Decker, scribe

Guests: Angus Jennings, Wendy Reed, Trent Lloyd, Vanessa Johnson Hall

Absent: Marlene Switzer, Patricia Reeser, Kathy Feehery

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

1) Landscape Architect Trent Lloyd Presentation on Mill Pond

- a) Trent Lloyd, Landscape Designer, is facilitating the design process for the conceived Mill Pond accessible trail which will run from the parking area to the pond. Trent L. showed the trail and asked OSC members what they would like, not specifically the accessible trail, but other amenities and what we would like to see changed or remain the same. Trent said she needs to get the community on board especially before applying for State grants. She hopes to have more community presentations as she completes her information gathering period. The consensus among the OSC members was simplicity to preserve the natural environment as much as possible. It was also suggested limiting accessible parking to two spaces.

2) Executive Session Concerning Land Acquisition

- a) OSC members met with Vanessa J.Hall concerning a possible purchase of land with Essex County Greenbelt Association. Following this closed session to the public, Don B. made a motion to go back to the regular business meeting and Jean L. seconded. Regular meeting called to order at 8:05pm.

3) ECTA and Ocean Meadow Trail

- a) John D. said the Essex County Trail Association has filed in land court to sue Paul Kelly to open the gate installed at Ocean Meadows which blocks a trail right-of-way. Other issues were raised concerning easements. Angus J. stated there must be a recording of the easement in the Essex County Records Office, otherwise it is not legal or binding which has happened in the past, such as the loss of the Job's Swamp easement. This

should all be part of the Planning Board Approval process. Additional easement issues will need further discussion.

4) Mill Pond All Access Sign

- a) Patricia R. could not attend tonight's meeting, so discussion was tabled.

5) Items Not Reasonably Anticipated at the Time of Posting

- a) John D. said OSC members had approved to ask for \$1,500 for the OSC budget, but Angus J. would like the amount to go back to \$750.00. The higher amount had been approved by OSC members due to updates needed on trails and maps. John D. said he recently talked with Steve Greason who developed the new River Road property map using GPS visualizer at no cost. Essex County Greenbelt also has a new mapping system and trail map application. John D. spoke with Dave Rimmer at Greenbelt as they need to do a better job recognizing West Newbury on their maps and trail signs. West Newbury citizens have been vital to a number of land acquisitions and should be given recognition of the partnership. Angus J. said if OSC finds more money is needed for signage, than to ask him, as DPW has money in its budget for signs.

- b) Welcome to Michelle Greene who is the new part-time WN Conservation Commission Administrator (she started in September) and she is also the West Newbury Land Agent, checking Open Space trails and will be attending the monthly OSC meetings.

- c.) Jessica A. made a motion to approve the November and January OSC minutes. Jean L. seconded. Motion carried.

6) Meeting Adjourned

Jessica A. made a motion to adjourn. John D. seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Decker