

West Newbury Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes - FINAL

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Wednesday, September 11, 2019
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Office Building

Present: John Dodge, Don Bourquard, Wendy Reed, Marlene Switzer, Brad Buschur, Jean Lambert, Patricia Reeser, Carol Decker, and Jessica Azenaro, scribe

Guest: Vanessa Johnson-Hall, Essex County Greenbelt

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

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- 1) **Meeting Minutes** – Unanimous committee approval for August 14, 2019 meeting minutes.
- 2) **Review River Road Conservation Restriction** – Ms. Johnson-Hall
 - a. Close – September 30, 2019 close
 - b. Comments – Comments required from OSC, Mill Pond Committee, River Access Committee for new version to Board of Selectmen and Michael McCarron
 - c. CR Language
 - i. Dock - Town of West Newbury requests rights to construct a dock if Greenbelt does not.
 - ii. Minimal commercial recreation
 - iii. Section B
 1. Add grantor
 2. Cartop recreation (kayak, canoe)
 3. 2.5 electric motor
 4. Reserve rights on signs
 5. Dock Construction – subject to prior approval should dock be in line with conservation guidelines
 - iv. Next Steps – Comments, new draft to Greenbelt. Town and Greenbelt agree on new version and send to EEA (Executive Office of Environmental Affairs)
- 3) **Campaign Update** – Ms. Johnson-Hall
 - a. River Road Conservation Project – Closing
 - b. Brown Spring Farm - \$46K remaining to fundraise
- 4) **Invasive Species Walk Update** – Ms. Switzer
 - a. Meeting Location – Discussion regarding first meeting place as 1910 Building versus Riverbend. Ms. Switzer to contact Ann Sterling for technology set-up information and room change from Annex to a Town Building meeting room. Nancy Pau to instruct iNaturalist download and demonstration before proceeding to Riverbend for invasive species mapping walk. Focus will be on leaf shape and how to take pictures. Ms. Switzer to contact Jen Solis for an article. Ms. Azenaro to update Sign-Up Genius, send email blast to former nature walk email list.
- 5) **Bog Bridges/Dunn Field** – Mr. Buschur
 - a. Location – August 27th walk with Ms. Hamilton to determine placement of bridges.
 - b. Specifications – Cedar logs, 2 x 12, 8 ft rows set on top of ties to allow water flow. Chicken wire provides traction
 - c. Permitting/NOI – Ms. Reed to assist Mr. Buschur with NOI and permitting. Submit to Con Com by October 7th for November build goal.
- 6) **Liaison Update** – Ms. Reed

- a. Sullivan's Court/Neve Trail – November extension to finalize trails as agreed between developer and Planning Board
 - b. Public Safety Sign Update – Board of Selectmen meeting discussion Monday, Sep 16
- 7) **Easement and Conservation Restriction Database** – Ms. Reeser
 - a. Crane Neck access easement to swamp recorded. Awaiting planning board permitting
 - b. List of CR's
 - i. Jennifer Hughes – MVPC
 - ii. Book and Page
 - iii. Salem Deeds
 - iv. Send to John Dodge and Wendy Reed
 - v. Monitoring and Maintenance Plan
 - vi. Amendment to Open Space Plan
- 8) **All Access Trail Proposal** – Ms. Reeser
 - a. Proposal – OSC members to comment on proposal from Weston & Sampson sent Wednesday, September 11th to give better direction, scope of service for feasibility study
 - b. Groton – Ms. Switzer to check for RFP
 - c. Specifications – Trail widths, treads, grades, parking
 - i. Research – Rail Trail, Newburyport, Parker River Refuge, Coastal Trails
- 9) **All Other Business**
 - a. Red Trail – no new update
 - b. Groveland Easements – National Grid will not allow horses. Groveland negotiating. According to Salem deeds, trail owned by city needed National Grid land for trail crossing.
 - c. Lord/Kelly Easement – Mr. Dodge to discuss arbitration option with Carol Lloyd of ECTA. Mr. Bourquard to forward background email and map information to Mr. Dodge.
 - d. Fall Bicentennial Walks - Autumn walks set for 9-10:30 a.m.: Withers, Thursday, Oct. 24; Riverbend, Saturday, Oct. 26. Ms. Azenaro to send notification on Sunday, Sep 22 after Invasive Species Walk.

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The next meeting of the OSC will be Wednesday, October 16, 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Azenaro

cc: Town Clerk
John Dodge, website