



## **WEST NEWBURY OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

West Newbury, Massachusetts 01985

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Open Space Committee (OSC) met regularly during Fiscal Year 2011. Our accomplishments include:

- The continued development of the West Newbury Trail Network (WNTN) through trail improvements across West Newbury. In Fiscal Year 2011 the OSC focused on the town-owned Brake Hill parcel connecting the Merrimack River to the Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area. The OSC also developed a uniform trail marking scheme to further the OSC goal of making town land more accessible to the citizens of West Newbury.
- The OSC hosted a Full Moon Snow Shoe/Hike in February at the Millpond recreation area. Participation was excellent and the OSC plans to make this an annual event. The OSC would like to express their appreciation to the Department of Public Works, Director Gary Bill and Fire Chief Berkenbush for assistance and support.
- As an advisory committee, the OSC provided advice to the BOS, the Finance Committee and the Town regarding CPA projects and surcharge rates and advised the BOS when parcels are being removed from Chapter 61A.
- The OSC continued to work with the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission to obtain easements on land being developed to further the West Newbury Trail Network and make our open space available to the citizens of West Newbury. The OSC also began to advocate for keeping open existing trail easements. The OSC would like to thank the PB and the ConCom for their cooperation and recognize the diligence of OSC members Don Bourquard and Felicity Beech.
- OSC designee Barry LaCroix and Don Bourquard contributed to the Town Land Working Group providing input on priority parcels, historic trails and the impact to the West Newbury Trail Network of the sale of any property. The OSC would like to thank the BOS for the

development of a process to conduct due diligence before town land should be considered for sale.

- The OSC acquired a secure, central repository for Town Open Space and Recreation maps. These maps were a critical asset to the Town land Working Group. The OSC would like to thank the BOS for their support in providing secure space.
- The OSC Trail Subcommittee of Steve Greason, Felicity Beech and Don Bourquard continued to develop GPS supported trail maps and make the maps available to the citizens of West Newbury.
- OSC member Steve Greason continued to improve the OSC website with many attractive photographs, multiple maps and extensive information. The site includes:

- \*Trail guides, trail maps and an opportunity to comment on trail conditions;

- \*The Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan – a comprehensive analysis, review and action plan;

- \*OSC Meeting minutes;

- \*Links to associated resources and organizations with a brief description of each.

The link to the websites is [www.wnewbury.org/open-space-committee](http://www.wnewbury.org/open-space-committee)

- The OSC continues to work with the Parks and Recreation Committee to advocate for both active and passive recreation and considers this dialogue critical to the future recreational opportunities in West Newbury.
- The OSC continued to maintain the Priority Parcel List and evaluate land for open space potential.

The Open Space Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the 1910 Building. We welcome the participation of anyone interested in our open space activities.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Barry J. LaCroix, Chair