

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 2013. This report summarizes our accomplishments from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013:

- **Continued Development of Multiple Trail Networks throughout the Town:**

Examples include new trails on the Upper Artichoke Reservoir (Withers), Dunn Field and the Ocean Meadow boardwalk, built in August of 2012 by local volunteers and paid for by Essex County Trails Association (ECTA). The boardwalk is on a town-owned trail easement which connects the development to trails in Dunn Field, Pipestave and Mill Pond.

- **Fall Trail Hike:** In October 2012, the OSC held its 3rd annual trail hike showcasing a new trail network in Dunn Field and the new Ocean Meadow boardwalk. A group of 27 enjoyed the hike, exploring Dunn Field's 71 acres of active farm land and forest.

- **Open Space Library Exhibit:** As part of our community outreach efforts, the OSC created the exhibit "Summer Places, Open Spaces" in July and August 2012. This featured open space and land usage in West Newbury as well as our growing trail system. Special thanks to the G.A.R. Library for hosting this exhibit.

- **Riverbend Bridge and Boardwalk Project:** At the Spring Town Meeting, voters approved using \$40,100 of Town CPA money to construct three bridges crossing wetlands and the Indian River below the Page School. ECTA is assisting OSC with the project. The bridges are to be completed in 2014. This improvement will further support Page students' science studies.

- **Continued Development of OSC Website – WNewbury.org/open-space-committee:** The OSC website includes extensive information and resources: meeting minutes, printable maps, photographs and the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

- **Town Board Collaboration:** The OSC consulted with various town Boards on a broad range of topics: the Board of Selectman, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Town Counsel and Community Preservation Committee. Topics included the Riverbend bridge and boardwalk project, new trails in the Withers Conservation Area, Sullivan Court development and other open space issues.

- **Priority Parcels:** The OSC continued to maintain a Priority Parcel List, monitor these parcels and evaluate land for open space potential.

- **Improve Public Access to Merrimack and Artichoke Reservoirs:** Sites explored included water access at Withers Conservation Area, SSJE Emery House, River Meadow, the end of Whetstone Street and Ferry Lane Park. Fact-finding related to a preliminary plan for a boat launch, pier and parking provided by Mass Fish & Game began in May 2013.

- **Conference Attendance:** An OSC member attended Mass DCR's Annual Trails Conference to research trail-related grant funding opportunities.

- **New OSC Members:** The OSC welcomed two new voting members, Alice O'Leary and Patricia Reeser (a former associate member).

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Steve Greason Steve Greason, Chair, November 22, 2013

ANNUAL REPORT

2013



Hikers attend the Open Space Committee's 3rd Annual Trail Hike on October 13th, 2012, featuring a new trail network in Dunn Field and the Ocean Meadow boardwalk.



February 14, 2013

Riverbend Trail plans win backing for CPA funds

Sixth-graders use area as backyard resource

BY JENNIFER SOLIS
CORRESPONDENT

WEST NEWBURY — A plan to build a boardwalk and bridge along the 129-acre Riverbend Trail network behind Page Elementary School is one step closer to becoming a reality.

In May 2013, the Town voted to use CPA funds to construct three bridges in Riverbend below the Page School.



Visit: westnewburyopenspace.net