



WEST NEWBURY OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

West Newbury, Massachusetts 01985

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Open Space Committee had a long and varied list of accomplishments in 2006. Among the highlights, we:

- Helped educate the town on the importance and value of the Community Preservation Act, which Town Meeting adopted in 2006
- Forged a partnership with the non-profit Essex County Trail Association and began working with the organization to preserve and maintain open trails in the town; also continued working closely with the non-profit Essex County Greenbelt, which already manages several key open space parcels in town
- Reviewed and helped refine the conservation restriction that Town Meeting approved for the Berkenbush property on the Merrimack River
- Supported the purchase of the Mullen property for future town needs
- Worked on stewardship and management of existing town-owned open space, beginning with an inventory of properties and planning for a database to help identify maintenance requirements and resources
- Worked with other town stakeholders on the need for affordable housing
- Communicated to the Planning Board open space concerns on various proposed projects and helped negotiate trail easements with developers as we work toward developing a town-wide system of trails

We welcome input from town residents on open space issues. For information about the committee, its past and upcoming meetings and other open space resources please visit <http://www.westnewburyopenspace.net> , which is linked off the town web site.

Sincerely,

Mike Mokrzycki
Chairman