

West Newbury Open Space Committee
Minutes of 12/13/2006 meeting

Present: Mike Mokrzycki, Patricia Reeser, Annie Madden, Mickey Culver, Don Bourquard, Jean Lambert

1. **Minutes:** The OSC unanimously approved minutes of the 11/8/06 meeting as amended.
2. **Tree cutting:** The committee discussed proposed tree-cutting by the town DPW and hearing requirements under state shade tree law but took no action as a committee.
3. **Teaming With Wildlife:** The committee discussed the request from the organization Teaming With Wildlife for OSC support and decided it was not appropriate.
4. **Annual Report:** The committee discussed 2006 OSC accomplishments for the committee's report in the annual Town Report, to be drafted by Mike Mokrzycki.
5. **Communications:** The committee discussed ways to improve communications with the Conservation Commission, to help us be aware of open space issues as soon as they arise.
6. **FY08 Budget:** The committee voted to request \$1500 in the next fiscal year budget. The increase from our typical request for \$500 would be to conduct a mail survey of town residents in advance of the update required in 2008 of the town's Open Space and Recreation plan.
7. **Stewardship:** The committee will continue reviewing pilot reports and continue work on developing stewardship/management plan for town-owned lands.
8. **Indian Hill Farm:** Annie Madden updated the committee on the Moseley property at Indian Hill. Essex County Greenbelt is very interested in working with the Moseley Trust and the town to preserve the property, which is 36.7 acres and on the OSC Priority Parcels List. We discussed strategies for securing a conservation restriction on much of the property and the potential costs involved. Annie was to check with Tracy Blais and Greenbelt on availability of funding for an appraisal of the property. Patricia Reeser suggested a site walk.
9. **Trails update:**
 - a. Don Bourquard reported that the Essex County Trails Association has helped renovate and mark a trail from Pipestave to Riverbend. ECTA is willing to help renovate another route in the area and the committee

discussed potential locations, connections and future relevant desired easements.

- b. Patricia Reeser got confirmation that the town's liability insurance covers volunteers (for trail maintenance and other work), including children
- c. Don is to email Selectman Cushing with an update on potential trails projects and questions about whether Don would for liability reasons be considered an agent of the town while supervising minor volunteers during such projects. Patricia suggested parents might be asked to sign a written release and be invited to participate in the projects themselves.

Minutes approved as amended 1/10/07