

**West Newbury Open Space Committee**  
**Minutes of the meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 21, 2014**

Chairman Steve Greason called the Open Space Committee meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. in the second floor hearing room of the 1910 building with Jennifer Germain, Dawne Fusco, Alice O'Leary, Patricia Reeser, Don Bourquard, Elisa Grammer (associate), and Mike Sabulis (associate) in attendance.

West Newbury resident Deb Binder attended the meeting.

After hearing no public comment, the Committee addressed its agenda.

**Jennifer Germain Committee Membership**

It was noted that Jennifer Germain's term as a Committee member expires in 2014. After discussion, *Ms. Germain agreed to continue her membership.*

**Brake Hill Trails**

The Committee discussed proposed trails on the property of West Newbury resident Paul Young, who had attended a prior OSC meeting to offer trails on his property located across from the Pentucket junior high school driveway. Mr. Bourquard and Chairman Greason described trails through a beautiful natural meadow and a certified vernal pool. They reported that Mr. Young wants to keep this as a private property trail.

*It was generally agreed that the Committee would look into 1) a sign (like that on the trail at the Atherton property) would make it clear that the trail crosses private property and 2) a letter to Mr. Young thanking him for establishing the trails and including a copy of the Massachusetts statute offering protection from liability for those offering such trail access. Ms. Reeser agreed to draft such a letter for Chairman Greason's signature.*

**Trail Clean Up & Markers**

Mr. Sabulis stated that his neighbor, who works for Mass DEP, has signed up to do trail clean up. *It was generally agreed that trail cleanup would focus on West Newbury trails, particularly including the trails abutting the Groveland trail. It was also agreed that additional trail markers should be obtained and that Mr. Bourquard will investigate this and provide information to OSC.*

**Riverbend Bridges & Boardwalk**

Chairman Greason reported that wood for the Riverbend projects had been delivered and fully moved to the construction site in the case of the Coffin Street boardwalk. The wood was mostly moved (excepting certain "light" pieces) by high school volunteers at the Indian River bridge site. Students also collected trash on the river trail.

The Town was invoiced for the wood directly by lumber store. *The Committee signed off on the invoice.*

AmeriCorps will start work in the last week of June through July 4. They will resume in the 3d week of July. Also student trash collection along river trail.

### **Spring Town Warrant Articles**

At Town Meeting, the proposal to fund AmeriCorps passed unanimously, as did the proposal for the Town to buy a conservation easement on the Atherton/Pikes Bridge Road property. Chairman Greason noted that Gordon Sims on Garden Street, a big supporter of trails, wants to remove the fence and install a gate on Pikes Bridge Road at the Garden Street side. *It was generally agreed that this is an issue for the Town Selectmen and/or DPW, since there should be appropriate trail access as well as a barrier to keep cars out.*

Also at Town Meeting, Ferry Park was voted a permanent park and the prior Town vote for boat access at Ferry Landing Park was revoked.

Mr. Greason described the work of the ad hoc river access committee to identify river access in West Newbury and to discuss car top river access. The State will come up with two options for car top boat access. The configuration of the Ferry Landing site, including the possibility of closing off Church Street, was discussed. *It was generally agreed that it would be a good idea to get the ad hoc committee to look at an inventory of West Newbury's sites of public river access. OSC will investigate 1) plans, if any, for a crew dock at Pentucket High School's river side; 2) the possibility to have the Town charge for parking at river launch points—excepting Town residents with a car sticker; 3) installing a sign at the River Meadow water access point, making it clear that this is a public way.*

The Committee adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Elisa Grammer