

West Newbury Open Space Committee
Minutes of the meeting
Wednesday, June 18, 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 Dawne Fusco, Patricia Reeser, Felicity Beech, Jean Lambert, Alice O'Leary, Elisa Grammer (associate), and Mike Sabulis (associate) in attendance.

West Newbury resident Kathy Feerhey, Ellen Alden, Vanessa Johnson, attended the meeting.

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

Boucher & Grew Properties

28 Coffin St for sale 80 acres (6 parcels)--\$2.2 million. Google Earth map with wetland & trails. ECTA GPS private trail map.

Spoke with Glenn Clohecy & Paul Sevigny—next big development in W Newbury. Expectation going to development. Spur to Courtland—initially for utilities. But could be a road. Reeser: talked with A Bardin—no clear designation but likely for a road.

Likely won't connect to River Road Grew property because of steep ravine.

Ideally connect Riverbend & Riverrun trail systems.

Greenbelt—would invest time facilitating acquisition on behalf of the town. In touch with Grew. Lots of wetlands on that property. Don't have funding to buy land or conservation restrictions—Town expenditure. Town may come up with funding to buy some of it—think big.

What about Town buying some and then sell off lots—Vanessa: takes expertise & time & resources for Town.

Vanessa—maybe do an appraisal. Is it worth \$2.2 million. Greenbelt would go 50% on appraisal & CPA. Will be expensive—need to work with land planner. *Work to get an appraisal of the property—V to contact realtor & express interest. Try to do Grew at the same time.*

Motion partner with Greenbelt to get appraisal on both Grew and Boucher property; 2nd all in favor. Vanessa will talk with Joe Grew & Boucher realtor. Need understanding of value in order to evaluate. Need to go to Greenbelt acquisition committee--

Value of east-west connection with Riverrun & Coffin Riverbend.

Need to find out if Grew can be connected by road.

They are contiguous open space. Vanessa: think big—parking area, good story, get some property

Should do a site walk to see what the property is like. Friday—morning around 9 or 10

Trail Improvement Pikes Bridge Road

Gordon Sims abutter—tear down chain link fence & more attractive. Connected him with Selectmen. Gary Bill looking into gate. V hoping to close in the fall. Approved by state but awaiting Town approval of the conservation easement language.

Mill Pond Phragmites

Liz Callahan (who works with MA DEP) said this is first time she has seen it. Con Com discussed this. Talking about using something like Roundup in the fall.

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps start next week. Bob Weatherall has staked out. Custom made steel brackets. Coming in around 30K—10K under budget.

Meeting Minutes

May minutes approved unanimously.

Open Space Chair

Greason agreed to chair for another year.

Water Access

Ad hoc com is getting & evaluating inventory of 6 water access points in town. State doesn't have kayak plans done—they are at end of their FY & lack current manpower. Also no contract with town that would allow greater speed.

Trail in Library

Jean: easel being used so won't get prime billing. *Hold off til early fall & splash with Riverbend*

Brake Hill Trails Cleanup

Mike S—neighbors interested in cleaning up. OK to do? Yes. Can do flyers & organize maintenance. Reeser—notify Selectman so under Town aegis. Likely in July.

The Committee adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Elisa Grammer