

West Newbury Open Space Committee
MINUTES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Present: Barry LaCroix, Felicity Beech, Don Bourquard, Dawne Fusco, Jennifer Germain, Steve Greason, Patricia Reeser, Jason Spaulding, and Jean Lambert.

The meeting began at 7:40 P.M.

1. **Minutes** - The June minutes were unanimously approved. Minutes for April and May, 2012, were not available.
2. **OSC Library Exhibit** - Jean reported on the open space library exhibit she is setting up in the town library. The exhibit has a summer focus and informs about trails and West Newbury land use as well as seasonal hiking cautions of ticks, poison ivy, and mosquitoes. This exhibit, which builds on a previous OSC exhibit in the library in December, 2011, will run throughout July and August and is entitled: "Summer Places, Open Spaces."
3. **BOS Decision on Daley/Page East Property** - The group discussed the Daley/Page East property and the recent decision by the BOS not to pursue acquisition of this land.
4. **Boardwalk to Proceed at Ocean Meadows** - Steve shared a consent form from Mr. Gillis allowing the construction of a boardwalk by ECTA on Lot 2 until August 31, 2012. Posthole locations have been inspected. The group briefly discussed the wetland issue on this property, scheduling for bridge construction, and Open Space Committee efforts concerning trails at this location.
5. **Trail Maintenance Planning** - Felicity noted that she and Amy Bresky had mowed much of the Dunn property. Steve noted that Dunn could be the trail for our fall trail hike and that he hoped to introduce the new boardwalk then.

Steve suggested that Jason Goldweber be a new trail steward.

Jason Spaulding volunteered to create a schedule of trail maintenance including what is required for all trails and what is additionally required for specific trails. The group discussed what was required for good trail maintenance. Jason will provide his thinking to that point at the next meeting. Steve noted such a schedule would help Jason and trail stewards or other volunteers with planning.

Steve reported on Gary Bill's mowing schedule and what additional mowing might be needed. He suggested supplying Gary with a list for mowing and other maintenance needs such as downed trees across trails.

Felicity noted that ECTA is a resource in trail maintenance. Steve also suggested that the West Newbury Riding and Driving Club could provide helpful information on trail maintenance needs.

6. **Update on Cena Trail Easement** - Steve related that he had spoken with John Cena's attorney. The committee discussed options related to the existing easement.

7. **Update on Adding an OSC Member to CPC Board** - Steve reported that he had attended a meeting of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to present the idea of including an OSC member in this group since we are a stakeholder. He noted that this topic will be part of a future CPC agenda, probably in August. The OSC group discussed this possibility. It was noted that the CPC needs a website and that we might help with that.
8. **Trail Easement Publication** - Steve suggested that there was a need for a publication of some kind that showed easements on private lands through a map noting existing and possible (dotted line) easements. He said that ECTA publications noted easements and that we needed one that was geared to developing West Newbury's own "emerald necklace" and included a "success story" like Ocean Meadows.

Barry brought up the possibility of short-term easements. Steve asked Don and Felicity to compile a list of easements in town.

9. **Goals and Objectives: Ferry Landing Development** - Steve reported he had talked with a number of people who support better water access at Ferry Landing. He will talk to Park and Rec and let the OSC know more about this possibility at a future meeting. The group discussed the history of the Ferry Landing area.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Lambert