

## **West Newbury Open Space Committee MINUTES**

*August 15, 2012*

*Present:* Steve Greason (Chair) Don Bourquard, Dawne Fusco, Jean Lambert, Barry LaCroix, Patricia Reeser, Jason Spaulding and Felicity Beech (recorder).

The meeting began at 7:30 P.M.

1. **Minutes:** The minutes for July 18 were approved. Those for April and May will be reviewed for approval at the next meeting.
2. **Merrimack & Coastal Sweep:** A volunteer group from U. Mass is organizing a collection of coastal trash that would then be analyzed. This is to be held in the early fall and includes the river bank in West Newbury. Since a West Newbury clean-up is more appropriate in the spring, after likely flooding and poison ivy are less of a problem, it was agreed not to push participation at this point. Jean will pass the request for help to the Boy Scouts and High School.
3. **Cena Easement Update:** Possible options for dealing with the routing of and access to this trail were discussed.
4. **Easement List:** A list is being developed for distribution and posting on the web site.
5. **Trail Maintenance Plan:** The committee discussed a plan presented by Jason. This identified sources of labor to help with reporting and monitoring, and clearing and maintenance. Riverbend and Brake Hill are priority areas where the OSC has been most involved in organizing this work. We agreed on the need to develop a schedule of those trails that required work at least twice per year. Jason will revise and amend the plan for the next meeting.
6. **Ocean Meadow Trail:** ECTA construction contractor and volunteers from OSC and WNRDC will be working on the board walk over the coming weekend, 18/19 August. Jean Lambert offered to organize refreshments.
7. **Fall Trail Hike:** We agreed to conduct a trail hike in Mid October featuring the Pipestave and Dunn trails. Details to be worked out at the September meeting. Steve has GPSed a new trail map for this area and drafted a marking scheme to be confirmed with the Mill Pond Committee. This would necessitate a change to the wooden sign at the cabin.
8. **New CPA Rules:** Steve reported on a meeting he attended on July 8<sup>th</sup> to learn how West Newbury might benefit from new CPA rules. Funds can now be used

for outdoor recreation improvements. It is not yet clear if trails will be included.

Steve is pursuing a plan, initiated 20 years ago, to use state funding to develop better access for small craft to be launched from the Ferry Landing Park, the triangle at the foot of Bridge and Church streets. CPA funds might be used for parking and picnicking.

9. **Library Exhibit:** The Open Space Display, entitled “Summer Places: Open Spaces” and staged by Jean Lambert, has been well-received. Members were encouraged to go see it.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M

Respectfully submitted,

*Felicity Beech*