

West Newbury Open Space Committee
MINUTES

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Present: Brad Buschur, Don Bourquard, Dawne Fusco, Steve Greason, Patricia Reeser, and Jean Lambert, scribe.

Guest: Carol Lloyd, Essex County Trails Association (ECTA)

The meeting began at approximately 7:40 P.M.

1. **ECTA - New trail Management Plan for Riverbend** - Carol Lloyd spoke to the group about how the use of the Riverbend trail in wet periods (late fall and early spring) was causing damage. She suggested a management plan to help the trails hold up to use and remain open. This plan would identify problem spots and prioritize fixing these areas based on their usage, natural resource assessment, and location within the trail system. It would be a long-term plan. After discussion, the committee voted unanimously to support ECTA in its plan and to work with the Conservation Committee (ConCom) in doing so. (ConCom oversees the management, maintenance, and operation of the Riverbend trail.) Don made the motion and Dawne seconded it.
2. **Essex Heritage Partnership Grant** - Steve presented information on a grant that would support funding for interpretative panels on the Riverbend trail system as well as one at Whetstone by the Merrimack and one at Ferry Park. He also shared his ideas for those panels related to nature and history. The group discussed the possibility of applying for this grant, due in five days, and agreed that trail issues needed to be addressed first this year and that next year, when the grant is available again, might be a better time to address trail enhancements.
3. **Minutes** - January minutes were not available for approval.
4. **Planning for Revising the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)** - The group discussed the upcoming OSRP revision. Don noted that the Boxford plan was a good model. Don reported too that he is working on maps for the plan, using the Boxford format. Brad reported that he is researching how best to do the survey and reaching out to Parks and Rec to include them in the process. Dawne and Jean will update figures in the sections they are revising.
5. **Goals and Objectives** - Steve shared ideas and information for a Chapter 61 poster exhibit under development. Using a map, he also highlighted the four Chapter 61 areas lost to development in the recent past and the four lost in 2016 alone.
6. **Changed Meeting Time** - The March meeting was moved to the fourth Wednesday of the month, March 23, instead of the usual third Wednesday (in this case, 3/16) because the meeting room was not available then.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 P.M. Don moved to adjourn and Brad seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Lambert