

West Newbury Open Space Committee MINUTES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Present: Barry LaCroix, Dawne Fusco, Steve Greason, Jean Lambert, Patricia Reeser, and Felicity Beech

The meeting began at 7:40 P.M

1. **Minutes** - The minutes of May 18, 2011 were approved.
2. **Cena Easement** - A site walk was held on June 11 with Dan Cena, Bob Janes, Barry LaCroix, Steve Greason, Deb Hamilton, and Jay Smith. The Committee agreed to authorize Barry and the Trails Committee to work with the Cenas to see if the trail can be relocated to a mutually acceptable route connecting the same end points, i.e., Bailey's Lane and Long Hill Orchard.
3. **Ocean Meadow Easements** - Felicity and Don reported on the Planning Board meeting held the previous night. This meeting was well attended by about 20 trail users keen to see these trails routes open to the public since they have been closed for over 5 years. It was reported that the West-North trail was almost complete. This links to ECTA trail easements to the North. On the West end, it links to a Conservation Commission trail easement across the conserved open space (Lot 2) to Chase Street. It was agreed that the committee would host a discussion at the Town Offices to encourage public support in opening these important trail links to the town-wide trail system. Felicity will set a date for this and, with other trail advocates, develop a suitable letter to be mailed to residents of Ocean Meadow and abutters.
4. **Update on Town Land Committee** - Barry advised that analysis of some half of the properties on the list had been completed.
5. **Expanding Trail Marking and Mapping** - It was agreed that Barry, Don, Patricia, and Steve would meet on Friday, July 15 at 5:00 PM at Brake Hill. Steve will GPS and map the trails. Don will develop a color scheme to use the new metal trail markers; 5 colors were recently purchased. This area may be used for the Fall Trail Day.
6. **Newbury Lower Green** - The Friends of the Lower Green have launched an appeal for donations to buy a parcel adjacent to the Green close to the Parker River to prevent development of this historic open space. The committee discussed inviting the group to make a presentation in West

Newbury to encourage donations but committee members felt there would be little support.

7. **Beaucher Property** - Jean said that this priority parcel or part of it might be a prospective Greenbelt acquisition. Barry said he would raise this topic with Greenbelt.
8. **Cortland Lane Easement** - This town-owned easement links to trails on the Beaucher and Grew land. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate for us, as a public body, to clear this link to private trails.
9. **Wall Maps** - Steve reported that MVPC would print OSP maps for free. Three would be laminated in order to hang them in the meeting room. Don would arrange for a third - Open Space Plan - to be printed on the Town's printer. It was noted that any costs would need to be incurred before June 30 to be paid from this year's budget. Claims must be submitted by July 8th.
10. **Other Business** - Felicity advised that ECTA has agreed to improve a stream on a private trail (Robert Smith property) which is an important link from Main Street to Pipestave via Archelaus Place.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Felicity Beech