

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

*Wednesday, August 31, 2011*

*Present:* Barry LaCroix, Felicity Beech, Don Bourquard, Dawne Fusco, Steve Greason, and Jean Lambert

The meeting began at 7:33 P.M.

1. **Minutes** - The July minutes were accepted as amended.
2. **Final Update from Town Land Working Group** - There was no update on this topic because that group's meeting was canceled.
3. **Update on Trail Easements**

***Ocean Meadow*** - After the Friends of Ocean Meadow Trails presentation at the OSC meeting in July, Amy Bresky wrote to the Con Com advising them that her group wanted to walk Ocean Meadow and lay out and mark where trails might go. The Con Com agreed to send a letter to the developer indicating this and the time of the walk. The ConCom canceled its August 23 meeting and will not meet again until September 12, when it will act on this matter. Barry suggested that OSC members go to this Con Com meeting and the group discussed this.

Steve asked if a summary of the presentation had been provided to Ocean Meadow residents. Felicity indicated it had not.

***Cena*** - Jay Smith, West Newbury Conservation Officer, had a conversation with Dan Cena about where to move the trail and suggested the abandoned road bed. Dan was of the opinion that his brother did not own the roadbed although a plan shows he owns half of it.

4. **Request for Town Counsel's Opinion Re Abandoned Worth's Lane/Bailey's Lane Roadbed** - Ownership of the abandoned roadbed at the Cena property needs to be resolved to move ahead and explore relocating the trail there. Barry moved that the OSC request Town Counsel's opinion regarding who owns of the abandoned Worth's Lane/Bailey's Lane roadbed. Don seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of seeking Town Counsel's opinion on this matter.

5. Discussion of Priority Parcels (Grew/Boucher/Walker/Sullivan)

**Grew** - Jean provided an update on the Grew property. The lease for a section of the property by New England Equine Rescue is expected to continue.

**Boucher** - Jean updated the group on the Boucher property. Dawne noted that wetland on this property has increased. Barry agreed to talk with Greenbelt again regarding this property.

Using a map that included both the Grew and Boucher properties, Felicity pointed out possible options for trails in this area that would connect to other existing trails.

**Walker** - Barry reported on Greenbelt's efforts regarding the Walker property and possible next steps.

**Sullivan** - Barry reported that there was a possible offer on the property and has requested a copy of the offer so that the OSC can advise the Town regarding its exercise of 61A rights.

6. Draft Merrimack River Trail Report - The draft plan of the Merrimack River Trail Report was reviewed and accepted without any changes.
7. Fall Trail Day - After discussion, the group decided that the fall trail day should take place on Saturday, October 15, at 11:00 AM, with Sunday, the 16<sup>th</sup> as a rain date. This change from the proposed date of Saturday, October 1, means that our event will not conflict with the Apple Harvest Road Race held in West Newbury that same weekend on Sunday, October 2, and will give us more time to prepare.

Then Barry led a discussion of action items for the trail day including infrastructure (trail clearing, mapping, and marking), marketing, parking, and refreshments. He indicated he would follow up with an email confirming specific assignments for each committee member.

8. Goals and Objectives - This topic was deferred to another meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jean Lambert*