

West Newbury Open Space Committee

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Present: Barry LaCroix, Don Bourquard, Dawne Fusco, Jennifer Germain, Steve Greason, Jean Lambert, and Felicity Beech (Recorder).

Guest: Deborah Hamilton

The meeting began at 7:40 P.M

1. **Minutes from April 21, 2010 Meeting** - The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. In Item 6, second to last sentence was amended to read:
“In summing up the discussion, Barry emphasized the need to formalize Planning Board-OSC communication by keeping an ongoing property list and having the OSC represented at Planning Board meetings”
The minutes were accepted as amended and Jean will make the corrections.
2. **National Trails Day** - Much of the meeting was spent on finalizing plans for the public trail walk to Riverbend on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 5.
 - **Route** It was agreed to use the Indian River Trail (orange) as the primary guided walk to be led by Barry. He would be assisted by Cindy and Don Bouquard and Deborah Hamilton in identifying points of interest and who would also offer guidance to walkers who might decide to take a longer hike to the Merrimack River.
 - **Site preparation** - Barry and Alex Hamilton to identify and remove most critical areas of poison ivy adjacent to trail route used for primary walk. Steve to erect trail head signs with newly agreed map of colored routes and would provide 100 copies of the map as handouts for walkers and make 20 copies of the historical information available at Millpond. It was noted that Con Com had designated the orange trail as off-limits to horses because of potential damage to sensitive vegetation. On the day Jean would provide signs and balloons. Felicity to borrow riding club A-frame.
 - **Post Walk Refreshments.** It was agreed to provide hotdogs, chips and beverages for all participants. Plan to purchase from Food Mart. Barry to seek clearance from the Town Accountant to use our budget for this purpose.
 - **Publicity**
 - NR to Daily News (Scout story, Trails Day and Thurs Look Out) Felicity
 - Posting on WNOSC (Steve) and ECTA (FAB) websites
 - Posters- using large ECTA posters with WN overlay, made by Steve and Felicity, plus smaller handbill invitations to be widely distributed by Jennifer & Jean. (Selectmen, schools, libraries etc.)
 - Barry to ask CSC to distribute to email list. Also to ask Selectmen to write a letter of thanks to Jeremy Baker.
 - **Scavenger Hunt** Deb and Felicity to work on a handout/checklist/passport to encourage observation and awareness of the different features of the conservation area - both natural and man-made. To be handed out at the start and used as check in for refreshments at the end.
 - Event agreed to be run rain or shine.

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3. **Designee to Town Land Working Group** - The Selectmen had called for a nomination for this group from the OSC. Barry was nominated, seconded by Felicity and unanimously recommended.
 4. **Grant Discussions** - Barry reported that there were some grants available from the state for open space purchase. He agreed to have further discussions with Tracy Blais about possible priority parcels the committee had identified.
 5. **OSC Appointments** - Terms were expiring this year for voting members: Don Bourquard, Barry Lacroix, Patricia Reeser and Associate members: Dawne Fusco (Con Com representative) and Annie Madden. Barry would send a letter to the BOS asking for all but Annie Madden to be appointed. Annie no longer wished to serve because of other commitments. It was agreed to request that the BOS acknowledge Annie's long term commitment the increasing, improving and publicizing the town's open space resources.
 6. **Open Meeting Law** - The members received the text and interpretive information from Larry Murphy about the revised Open Meeting Law and noted that this called for more stringent posting and record keeping by the committee
 7. **Ethics Training** - Barry had been advised that not all members had yet taken the Ethics test that was mandated.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Felicity Beech