

**West Newbury Open Space Committee  
Minutes**

Wednesday, January 28, 2016

*In attendance:* Don Bourquard, John Dodge, Dawne Fusco, Jennifer Germain, Steve Greason, Jean Lambert, Patricia Reeser, and Brad Buschur

1. Beaucher: Property owner rejected Essex County Greenbelt's offer, but left the door open for renewing negotiations in summer 2016. Offer contingent on town of West Newbury contributing to acquisition costs. Property includes two lots: one 8-acre parcel with an existing house, and a second lot containing 72 acres. House lot is under agreement.
2. NEER North: Owner wishes to sell development rights for 6-8-acre hay field. Jennifer Germain to write to owner regarding options.
3. **Chapter 61**: Selectmen reviewed 61a procedures with committee chairs. Right of first refusal process includes consultation of boards and Open Space Committee.
4. **Open Space and Recreation Plan Update**:

The Town needs to update its open space plan in order to be eligible for state grants from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The committee delegated the following assignments to members:

- a. Chapter 1
  - i. To be completed upon completion of bulk of the plan.
- b. Chapter 2
  - i. Planning process and public participation – Brad Buschur
- c. Chapter 3
  - i. Regional Context – Jean Lambert
  - ii. Population characteristics – Brad Buschur
  - iii. Growth & Development Patterns – John Dodge
- d. Chapter 4
  - i. Dawn Fusco to review existing text
  - ii. Committee to add discussion on global warming, hydrology, flood plain adjustments
- e. Chapter 5: Priority Parcels
  - i. Steve Greason and Don Bourquard to review parcels
  - ii. John Dodge to reach out to Recreation Committee
- f. Chapter 6: Community Goals
  - i. Patricia Reeser to review and update
- g. Chapter 7: Analysis of Needs
  - i. Resource Protection – Dawne Fusco to review
  - ii. Community Need – All
  - iii. Management Needs – Jennifer Germain
- h. Chapter 8: Goals and Objectives
  - i. Reviewed by all

- i. Chapter 9
  - i. 5 Year Action Plan – Reviewed by all
- j. Chapter 10
  - i. Public Comments: Brad Buschur
- k. References – All as needed
- l. Nota bene: ADA review – Town?

General discussion about outreach opportunities:

- Page School
- Spring town meeting
- Survey implemented using survey gyzmo
- Elderly need visits for survey completion?

Respectfully submitted,  
Brad Buschur