

West Newbury Open Space Committee **MINUTES**

Monday, July 12, 2010 (Amended 9-23-2010)

Present: Barry LaCroix, Don Bourquard, Felicity Beech, Jean Lambert, and Steve Greason.

Guest: Ann Bardeen, Planning Board

The meeting began at 7:44 P.M

- 1. Minutes from the June, 2010 Meeting** - The minutes from the June meeting were reviewed. Don motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Jean seconded this motion. The vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
- 2. Presentation of the Daley Project Proposal by Finance Director** - Finance Director Tracy Blais was unable to be present because of a conflict. Barry provided background concerning a grant application involving the Daley property and done by Tracy. Barry believed the grant was a \$500,000 maximum. Barry advocated supporting this grant for three reasons: 1) the possibility of receiving the grant, 2) receiving \$10,000 for the appraisal for uses fee incurred by the Town on this property, and 3) it could be a catalyst for a broader discussion of land acquisition within the Town.

The group then discussed the grant as well as a greater project linked to this grant. Ann Bardeen provided the background on this second project as she understood it as a member of the CPA committee. It involves restoring the Sailors and Soldiers Home as well as acquiring 22 acres in back of this Home, land contiguous to the ball fields.

Barry made the following motion and Steve seconded it:
“I move that the OSC direct the chair to work with the Finance Director to complete the grant application in a timely manner. OSC support at this time is limited to support of the grant application. The OSC looks forward to working with the proponents of the project and other Town boards and committees to fully define the project. At that time, the OSC will determine whether it supports the project in whole or in part.”

The group voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Barry also indicated that, as chairman, he would convey our position to Finance Director Blais in an email.

- 3. OSC Input to Open Space and recreation Goals Achieved by the Daley Project** - Using the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Action Plan as a

reference, the OSC discussed which objectives applied to the Daley property. The group reached a general consensus on the appropriate objectives that should be included as part of the grant application. Barry will send this list to the Finance Director in the same email explaining the OSC position on the project.

4. Discussion of Sullivan and Schifano Properties - Discussion of the Sullivan property was deferred to another meeting.

Don updated us on the Schifano property, noting it was on the market and that the former permitted plan had expired. He further shared that the property could be of possible benefit as a Town property, including for a well field. He advised that we need to keep on top of this situation and fact find to see if there is a project we can support here. The OSC agreed that Don should do so.

5. New Business

- A. **Future OSC Agendas** - Barry advocated that we spend more time developing our meeting agenda with input from a broader representation of OSC members.
- B. **Town Maps** - Steve expressed a need for a Town map showing public and private land along with public and private trails and property lines to aid OSC work. The group discussed obstacles to securing this. Barry will investigate the topic further with Brian Murphey, liaison with the Merrimac Valley Planning Commission.
- C. **Barry Property** - Felicity inquired about the status of the trail on the Barry property. It does not seem that an application has been filed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 P.M. Felicity made the motion to adjourn and Steve seconded it. Before adjourning, we thanked Ann for attending the meeting and for her input.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Lambert