

West Newbury Open Space Committee

MINUTES

April 11, 2007

Present: Mike Mokrzycki, Patricia Reeser, Don Bourquard, Mickey Culver, Dawne Fusco, Jean Lambert, Jim Ryan.

1. **Selectmen's CPA By-law Hearing:** Patricia Reeser motioned that we attend the selectmen's hearing on the CPA by-law taking place concurrently downstairs. The motion was seconded and the vote unanimous in favor of attending. The OSC then departed for the hearing. At the hearing, most members of the OSC spoke, advocating strongly for an OSC member on the CPA Committee and emphasizing the tremendous experience and expertise an OSC member would bring to the CPA Committee. But the selectmen did not agree. Their decision was to represent OSC interests through a Conservation Commission member and a Parks and Recreation committee member.
2. **Next Steps re the CPA By-Law:** Following the hearing, the OSC reconvened to continue its regular meeting. The first topic discussed was whether or not we should do anything as a committee or as individuals on Town Meeting floor to try to amend the CPA by law as currently written. Given the question of whether we actually could amend it from Town Meeting floor and the issue of whether it would be unproductive for OSC interests not to get the CPA by-law passed in a timely fashion, the committee decided to support the current by-law, see how it worked out in practice, and work to amend it only if the OSC was excluded from playing its role within the by-law's framework.
3. **Pre-Town Meeting OSC Meeting:** The committee agreed to meet if necessary before Town Meeting to deal with any concerns about the warrant, once we knew what was on the warrant. Mike Mokrzycki committed to posting the meeting for 7:00 P.M on April 30 at Old Town Hall.
4. **Future OSC Meetings:** Other OSC meetings will be posted for May 9th, June 13th, and July 11th.
5. **Project Updates:**
 - a. **Indian Hill** - Patricia Reeser reported that the Indian Hill committee is waiting for an appraisal before meeting. That committee includes Greenbelt Executive Director Ed Becker, Finance Director Tracy Blais, Selectman Glenn Kemper, and OSC member Patricia Reeser.
 - b. **Daley/Hawthorne** - Don Bourquard reported that the developers are going along with the proposed trails and have proposed a walking trail from the common house to the Senior Center in the 1910 Building. Don asked about what approval was needed from the Town for this trail. The committee discussed the Daley/Hawthorne plan further. The ratio of open space remains a concern.
 - c. **902 Main Street** - Don Bourquard said the owners were not replying to his requests to discuss open space and trail issues. Don will continue to monitor this situation.

- d. *Whitegate Farms* - Mike Mokrzycki noted that this project went through the permitting process in two separate phases, one for a four-lot subdivision and another for three Form A lots, but now all seven lots are being marketed together. The committee briefly discussed potential implications.
 - e. *29 Ash Street* - Don Bourquard reported on the trail situation/easement. The committee endorsed not attempting to obtain a formal, disconnected all comers easement given the owners' and abutters' informal arrangements to continue the route as a Myopia and equine-only trail.
6. **Priority Parcels List:** Because of lack of time, consideration of the Priority Parcels List was postponed to a future meeting.
 7. **Minutes:** The committee unanimously approved the minutes for the January 10, 2007, February 26, 2007 and March 14, 2007 meetings.
 8. **Open Meeting Law:** Mike Mokrzycki noted that under the Open Meeting law, minutes of any OSC executive session would need to be released when the reason for secrecy no longer held. Mokrzycki asked if the committee has had any such executive sessions and the answer was no.
 9. **Adjournment:** The OSC meeting adjourned at 9:36 P.M.