

West Newbury Open Space Committee  
1/10/2007 meeting minutes

Attendees: Mike Mokrzycki, Patricia Reeser, Annie Madden, Mickey Culver, Jean Lambert, Don Bourquard, Jim Ryan

1. Signed paperwork for reimbursement to Patricia Reeser of \$30 for Land Trust Coalition dues
2. The committee unanimously approved the minutes as amended of the 12/11/06 OSC meeting.
3. Indian Hill Farm update: Annie reported that she had done a site walk with the Essex County Greenbelt acquisitions committee and they are very interested in the project. It appears likely Greenbelt will pay to have an appraisal done on the site – both to appraise fee property and just the development rights -- and it was believed this appraisal would be sufficiently independent for the town's needs. Once we have a sense of the numbers we can assess how to structure a deal that would protect the property. Annie also said Greenbelt and Tracy Blais would assess potential sources of grant money for this project.
4. Essex National Heritage Area grants: These grants did not appear to be a funding source for Indian Hill Farm but may be appropriate for other projects related to open space in town. Don Bourquard will review trails projects that might be appropriate. Any grant application would need signoff from the Board of Selectmen.
5. The committee briefly discussed the proposed cutting of trees on the Training Field and compliance with the Shade Tree Act. Patricia Reeser raised this at a Selectmen's meeting and will advise when she hears back from them.
6. Communications with Conservation Commission: Don Bourquard has arranged for the Open Space Committee to receive draft agendas of Conservation Commission meetings and in return will share our draft agendas with the ConCom.
7. Riverbend/Page signage: Don Bourquard will discuss proposals with the Board of Selectmen. He has talked with a Scoutmaster about Boy Scout involvement in the project, which would solve the supervision question we discussed previously. Jim Ryan said his father is an advertising/graphics artist and offered input on design of the signs.
8. Pipestave/Mill Pond Management Plan: Patricia Reeser reported on a meeting with the Mill Pond Committee regarding revisions to the management plan. Drafts were circulating. The committee consensus was the Open Space Committee does not need to be listed as a stakeholder in that plan as the area already has sufficient oversight.
9. Priority Parcels List review: Annie will check to make sure we're all working off the most recent revision. We will review at a future meeting.