

West Newbury Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes

Ω

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018
First-floor Meeting Room, Town Office Building

Present: Don Bourquard, Brad Buschur, John Dodge, Jean Lambert, Wendy Reed, Patricia Reeser and Marley Switzer, scribe.

Absent: Jessica Azenaro, Dan Carlat

Minutes of the Sept. 12 meeting were approved with changes (Jean Lambert, motion; Marley Switzer, second).

Minutes of the Sept. 19 meeting were unanimously approved (Marley, motion; John Dodge, second).

Ω

Informal discussion of the Hufnagel site walk. Participants were impressed with the location and quality of the property for trails and possible access to river.

Ω

Discussion of the Planning Board hearing on the Parker Farm development. Don told the PB that the OSC is interested in an easement from 87 Main St. to Brake Hill. Planners suggested talking with the land owner, because the board only was deciding on a Special Permit for a common driveway. Don was to approach the developer about a trail, possibly hugging the property's west border. Reminder: the developer can realize a tax reduction for donating the trail easement.

Ω

Details of the Oct. 21 Fall Trail Hike at Dunn Fields: Wendy and Deb Hamilton will serve as guides. Hikers to leave at 1 p.m. from the DPW parking area. Set-up there: Brad to bring a long table at 12:15. Patricia will bring tablecloth, napkins, water & cups. Jean to pick up cider and apples from Long Hill Farm. John to bring sawhorses and poster board for "Hike Begins Here" signs the morning of the hike. Wendy will bring Dunn Fields trail maps to hand out.

Ω

John suggested not taking down the original OSC website while Angus offers technical assistance to move all of the special material to the town site.

Ω

Those members present were informally polled for their position on the Special Town Meeting warrant article seeking approval of a CPC grant to fund an engineering study of recreational expansion on the Dunn Fields. Brad made a motion, seconded by Marley, that the OSC should take a position that the article for expansion was premature and that any proposal for development of Dunn Fields for recreational uses be done in the context of an overarching study of town capital recreation and open space needs at Pipestave and Mill Pond. Motion was approved by Don, John, Jean, Patricia, Brad and Marley.

Ω

Associated tasks for completion of the OSRP draft are estimated to require up to 10 hours of MVPC assistance. Angus will be informed of that potential request.

Ω

The next regular OSC meeting will begin with an Executive Session for discussion with Vanessa Johnson-Hall about Greenbelt support for land preservation. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 13 (*Note: not on a Wednesday*).

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Switzer

cc: Town Clerk, file
John Dodge, website