

West Newbury Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

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Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018
Second-Floor Meeting Room, Town Office Building

Present: Jessica Azenaro, Brad Buschur, Dan Carlat, John Dodge, Wendy Reed, Patricia Reeser and Marley Switzer, scribe.

Absent: Don Bourquard, Jean Lambert

The OSC meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Wendy gave details of an Aug. 15 site visit to Sullivan Court, where Tom Neve is constructing houses. Neve has pledged to create access and trails in open space around the six houses, but the trails haven't officially been delineated. The site walk examined a rough trail over the Water Dept. easement connecting Sullivan Court to the River Meadow subdivision. The town holds a 50' easement (which includes the water line) for a future road, which could permit a trail to be created on higher ground. Neve agreed to bring in an engineer to mark wetlands; discussion of relocating the trail will follow. (*Conservation Agent Jay Smith & Marley also were present.*)

Neve has offered another trail, this one along the river where open space has been created. Access to the trail is via an easement along the common driveway of two houses. At the site visit, a second access appeared possible, which would make a trail loop instead of a single-access dead-end trail. Neve said he will explore that addition.

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John Dodge reported that a videographer for cable TV filmed at his house. The video about the OSC will be aired before or after Selectmen's meetings.

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Wendy detailed a presentation of a developer's preliminary plan to construct houses on Brown Spring Farm. (*Jean & Marley also attended the meeting.*)

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Patricia reported a site visit (*with Wendy, Jessica & Marley*) to River Meadow, where town land could provide water access for cartop-carried craft. RM residents have a 20' easement for a dock but also have mowed much of the adjacent town-owned land for many years.

Patricia said the Selectmen-appointed River Access Committee (RAC) previously reviewed the River Meadow parcel and eliminated it from consideration because of possible limits on low-tide access and lack of parking. After discussion with the River Access Committee about possible parking on a nearby town-owned parcel, it will revisit its finding with a review.

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Group discussion of Annual Fall Trail Hike. Dunn Field, **Saturday**, Oct. 13, 1 p.m.

Potential guides: Steve Greason, Deb Hamilton, Wendy?

Publicity, including poster?

Parking in Pipestave DPW area?

Refreshments, tables, signs?

Hike route?

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Decision to move next regular meeting to Sept. 12. Full agenda includes: Bill Bachrach discussing RecCom proposal for Dunn Field; create OSC goals and 7-year action plan specifics for OSRP; prep for Brad's presentation of same for Sept. 19 public forum. Prior to Sept. 12, immediate need to create and distribute "invitation" to forum for town boards and committees, interested groups and residents. Request Jen Solis write a Daily News article on forum.

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John explained difficulty using the OSC website created by the late Mike Mokrzycki under the domain name westnewburyopenspace.net. Mike's widow, Jill Gambon, has been paying \$1.95 monthly for the hosting service, pair Networks, but the password is unknown, and uploads require FTP. Payment by the OSC will be due when the domain name is renewed in May 2019.

Discussion yielded suggestions to create an OSC Facebook page. The town website also provides a place for OSC business. John will shut down the separate OSC site before the end of the year. Patricia will send a letter to Jill, requesting that she cease paying the hosting service after 2018.

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Minutes of the July 18, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved with two changes (John motion; Brad second).

On a motion by Brad, seconded by John, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. The next regular OSC meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Switzer

cc: Town Clerk, file
John Dodge, website