

West Newbury Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, March 5, 2019
Second-floor Meeting Room, Town Office Building

Present: Jessica Azenaro, Brad Buschur, Jean Lambert, Patricia Reeser, Marley Switzer, scribe
Absent: Don Bourquard, Dan Carlat, John Dodge, Wendy Reed
Guests: Vanessa Johnson-Hall, Essex County Greenbelt Assistant Director of Land Conservation

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

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The Open Space Committee members who were present unanimously approved a motion by Patricia Reeser that was seconded by Marley Switzer to authorize Patricia Reeser to sign an application to the Community Preservation Committee, as co-applicant with Essex County Greenbelt, for \$200,000 towards the purchase of a Conservation Restriction on Brown Spring Farm, to be held jointly by Essex County Greenbelt and the Town, restricting the property to agricultural use outside a defined footprint for residential use.

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Patricia updated members about a proposal at the Feb. 20 meeting by resident Carol Decker. The retired director of Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary shared her idea about naturalist-led seasonal walks in town. Wendy Reed and Carol examined a number of possible trails last week and determined that Riverbend and Withers conservation areas are the best locations for these lessons in nature. The goal of the walks is to highlight and educate about the natural setting, so Carol had proposed that these walks be held in the same place so seasonal changes could be observed. Wendy and Carol propose the following spring walks: Thursday, April 25 at Withers and Saturday, April 27 at Riverbend; Thursday, May 2 at Riverbend and Saturday, May 5 at Withers.

Jessica Azenaro will be responsible for activating Signup Genius for nature walk registration. Patricia noted that John Dodge can create links to the walk details and registration on the OSC section of the town website.

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If the CPC approves the application to purchase a Conservation Restriction for Brown Spring Farm, it will be the second warrant article for the Spring Town Meeting that seeks voter approval for land preservation in conjunction with Greenbelt. Vanessa said interested parties will be able to attend site walks to tour the two properties: River Road Conservation Area on April 20, and Brown Spring Farm in early April (scheduled after work hours to accommodate the most people).

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The next regular meeting of the OSC will be Wednesday, March 20, 7 p.m.

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On a motion by Brad Buschur and seconded by Jean Lambert (after Marley read aloud the transcribed meeting minutes), members unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the March 5 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Switzer

cc: Town Clerk
John Dodge, website