

West Newbury Open Space Committee

MINUTES

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017

Present: Jessica Azalone, Don Bourquard, Steve Greason, Jean Lambert, Wendy Reed, Patricia Reeser and Marley Switzer (your scribe)

Absent: Brad Buschur; John Dodge

The meeting began at 7:40 p.m.

1. **Minutes Approval:** The assembled members unanimously approved the minutes of the Sept. 20, 2017 regular meeting after minor corrections. Jean continues to track down minutes from former meetings that have not been approved and posted. Minutes of the July 13, 2016 and Sept. 21, 2016 meetings were unanimously approved.
2. **Annual Town Report:** Jean suggested use of a photo from the upcoming joint Greenbelt hike for the OSC contribution to the FY2017 Town Report. Patricia to speak with Greenbelt about securing a suitable photo.
3. **Sullivan's Court Trails and River Meadow Conservation Area:** Wendy referred to a Sept. 26 ConCom letter to the OSC in which members expressed concern about OSC trail work. The ConCom made clear that it must sign off on a site *before* work can be done on new or existing trails that require walking through streams or involve sensitive land that hugs the shoreline. As examples, they pointed to trail activity by Steve and abutters of the Mullen property last summer. The sign-off measure extends to posting of trail signs. The letter indicates that Conservation Agent Jay Smith has removed signs installed by Steve at River Meadow Conservation Area.

The residents' association of River Meadow opposes public access within its easement for a dock. Steve said residents should be aware of town interest in River Meadow Conservation Area, especially after the ConCom site walk there two years ago and the Whetstone Greenway sign he installed. The residents' association will be on the next ConCom meeting agenda.

Don volunteered to be added to the e-mail distribution list for ConCom meetings so the OSC can be kept abreast of that board's actions. He already is receiving Planning Board meeting agendas for that purpose.

4. **Open Space Plan Working Session:** The next work session to update the 2009 OSRP will be Monday, Oct. 23, at 2 p.m., 2nd floor of Town Hall.
5. **Trail Hike Event:** Jessica suggested a last-minute publicity measure for the Greenbelt co-sponsored hike on the Walker Trail Sunday, Oct. 22. Marlene to call Pentucket

Superintendent's Secretary Maryann Naffah to request the hike be included in the regular Friday e-mail blast to schools.

6. **Goals and Objectives:** Time ran short before this could be discussed.
7. **** Nuts and Bolts:**
 - Patricia will call the DPW about mowing town parcels at the Indian Hill Reservoir and Moulton and Cherry Hill streets.
 - Steve reminded members about the Nov. 2-4 Massachusetts Trails Conference in Leominster that he will attend. Of special interest to the OSC are courses on trails through wetlands and trail mapping.
 - Greenbelt is sponsoring a 2-hour Weekday Morning Hike up Whittier Hill in Amesbury tomorrow, Oct. 19. Meet at Woodsom parking area. Check the Greenbelt website.
 - The Fall Town Meeting is Monday night, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex.
8. **Next Regular Meeting:** Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m., *30 minutes earlier than usual.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Switzer

**** Unscheduled discussion worthy of note.**