

West Newbury Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes
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Wednesday, February 28, 2018
Second-Floor Meeting Room, Town Office Building

Present: Jessica Azenaro, Brad Buschur, Jean Lambert, Wendy Reed, Patricia Reeser, Marley Switzer

Absent: Don Bourquand, John Dodge, Steve Greason

Guest: Vanessa Johnson, Essex County Greenbelt Association

The OSC meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., was adjourned for an Executive Session at 7:05 p.m., and was reopened at 8:05 p.m. by Patricia's motion, seconded by Brad Buschur. Minutes of the Feb. 12 meeting were unanimously approved.

Wendy Reed said ECTA holds the order of conditions for all trail work in town. The ECTA Trail Management Plan requires Conservation Commission approval of any work within 100 feet of a resource area. She suggests wetlands be delineated (working with Jay Smith) on all trails to spell out what can be done without prior OK. For example, when a tree falls across a trail, it might have to be disposed of 50 feet from the trail, when putting the downed tree along the trail would be preferable.

Jean Lambert attended the Feb. 26 FinCom meeting with Q&A from abutters to the Coffin Street solar project and SWEB representative Michael Carey. Her takeaways: SWEB has no U.S. solar installations; most are in Austria with a few in Italy and Czech Republic. The total of all is not equal to the West Newbury proposal. There will be two TM rezoning articles. This pilot project is expected to net SWEB \$847K annual revenue. Anticipated town tax revenue from the solar field is \$40K-\$60K, contrasted with \$11K annually from the open land.

Patricia and John Dodge walked the solar site on Feb. 26. They observed that two houses will be in sight of the solar array that will be on high land.

The ConCom could issue an Order of Conditions to Drake's Landing at its next meeting.

The OSC meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. on Jean's motion, seconded by Jessica Azenaro. Next regular meeting will be Wednesday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Switzer

cc: Town Clerk, file
Steve Greason, website