

West Newbury Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes

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Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Second-Floor Meeting Room, Town Office Building

Present: Jessica Azenaro, Don Bourquand, John Dodge, Steve Greason, Jean Lambert, Wendy Reed, Patricia Reeser, and Marley Switzer

Absent: Brad Buschur

Guests: Ken Bowe

The OSC meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Local video producer Ken Bowe discussed a local TV programming opportunity spearheaded by the BOS and cable advisory board. Initially, a short (10 min.) freestanding “show” would air before or after the BOS meeting, with longer pieces possible in the future. Format is an inside interview of people, with overlay maps or trail shots. Timeline is late May/early June. OSC could benefit by educating the public on land issues and attracting volunteers.

Members weighed in: focus not only on trails but also disappearing open land because surveys show residents value open space and rural vistas; interested members can outline film content, designate people to be interviewed, discuss topic points, find higher res material for graphics & photos; May 17 Greenbelt hike at Pipestave/Mill Pond, 9:30-11:30 a.m. “filming” opportunity; possible working session before May 16 meeting to avoid delaying project.

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Wendy Reed introduced for discussion the Wetland Trail Corridor Maintenance Plan developed by ConCom and discussed at its April 17 meeting. Via e-mail to Conservation Agent Jay Smith, ConCom will require 24-hr notice before or after trail work that includes: who did the work, when and on what trail. This would apply to OSC members or volunteers working with them.

The ConCom seeks to put this plan in place related to Wetlands Protection Act. The ConCom will hold a public hearing on the plan and will discuss it with BOS. After much discussion (on a motion by Patricia, seconded by John Dodge), the vote to approve the Wetland Trail Corridor Maintenance Plan, as amended, was: FOR -- Jessica Azenaro, Don Bourquand, John Dodge, Jean Lambert, Wendy Reed, Patricia Reeser, Marley Switzer; OPPOSED – Steve Greason.

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On a motion by Patricia, seconded by Don Bourquand, members unanimously approved minutes, as amended, of the March 28, 2018 and April 4, 2018 meetings.

In an ongoing effort to locate and approve missing past minutes (motion by Jean Lambert, seconded by Marley Switzer), members unanimously approved minutes from the following meetings: May 15, 2015; July 27, 2015; Dec. 8, 2016; July 18, 2017. On a motion by Jean, seconded by Steve, members unanimously approved as amended the Nov. 9, 2016 meeting minutes. It also was determined that the Dec. 14, 2016 meeting lacked a quorum.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m., on a motion by Jean, seconded by John. The next regular OSC meeting will be Wednesday, May 16, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Switzer

cc: Town Clerk, file
Steve Greason, website