

West Newbury Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Please Join In-Person Meeting

Present: Graham Bacheller, David Parrott, John Dodge, Patricia Reeser, Don Bourquard and Carol Decker, scribe

Absent: Jean Lambert, Marlene Switzer

Guests: Michelle Greene, Conservation Agent; Wendy Reed & Rick Parker, Select Board; Judy Bloomgarden, resident

Evergreen Tree Farm

Site walk is October 19. Graham B. asked for other ideas on how to engage more people to ensure the Evergreen Tree Farm article passes at Town Meeting. He has posted on Facebook, talked it up at Apple Harvest Run.

Fall Hike

Graham B. said he is posting on Instagram, and has talked with Mill Pond committee members. Posters are up at key spots around town. John has posted the walk on West Newbury People and a press release was sent to Newburyport Daily News. John D. will post on the website if the walk needs to be canceled due to inclement weather.

Select Board Questionnaire

Committee members were asked to review the questionnaire from the Select Board and send responses to Graham B. Following discussion, John D. made a motion that we accept the answers to the Select Board questionnaire. Don B. seconded. Motion carried.

Sawmill Brook Fundraising

Fundraising for the Sawmill Brook property has been going well. A house party has been scheduled for November 8 and invitations will soon be in the mail.

New Trail Construction Protocol

The New Trail Construction Protocol is a 20-question checklist to be completed before a trail is constructed so trail installation is done correctly and all aspects of trail funding and construction are looked at beforehand. Michelle G. said a handbook on trail construction would be forthcoming. Don B. would like people to be able to build trails without strict standards. Wendy R. said the checklist elevates this process. It is not meant to restrict, but rather to protect the Town from trail mistakes that have occurred in the past. John D. had concerns with Question 5, as it could be costly

to trail builders. This question concerned public trails proposed on an easement on land owned by another entity other than the Town. It would require surveyed plans showing the bounds of the easement. There was lengthy discussion back and forth. Michelle G. had hoped to have OSC approval tonight, but instead will go back and re-write a few of the questions.

Town Meeting

Carol D. will be presenting Articles 11 and 12, which will further fund Professional Invasive Plant Management as well as continued Summer Invasive Plant Internships, to be re-named Seasonal Land Stewards. Graham B. will present the article on CPC funding for Evergreen Farm.

Items Not Reasonably Anticipated

Carol D. said the kiosk at RiverBend Conservation Area located on the trail closest to the Way to the River Road access is in disrepair. She suggested leaving the posts and removing the board. John D. said he would take his drill and remove it.

Minutes

Don B. moved that we accept the September minutes and John D. seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn

John D. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Carol D. seconded. Motion carried.