

**Minutes for Open Space Committee Meeting, Tuesday, March 16, 2010
7:30 p. m., Staff Conference Room, Essex Elementary School**

Present: Julie Scofield, Tammy Gardner and Maria Burnham, also Derek Brown and Diane Polley

**IT WAS MOVED BY TAMMY, SECONDED BY JULIE AND VOTED
TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE Feb. 9, 2010 MEETING.**

- I. Derek Brown came, at Julie's request, to discuss Vernal Pools.
 - A. We should check out the Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team web site to see what they are doing.
 1. (www.cavpt.org)
 2. Richard Roth, of the Team, works with schoolchildren to look for pools near their homes.
 - B. Teachers are most effective in getting vernal ponds certified.
 1. Children identify the ponds.
 2. Classes fill out the forms & take pictures to certify them.
 - a. Certification sometimes prevents destruction of the vernal pools.
 - b. Certification requires pictures of egg masses and identifying environmental features of an area.
 - c. Certified pools in Essex exist on Belcher St. and Pond Street.
 - d. Call Helen Bethell of MECT to see if there are any on their properties.
 3. The committee should consider purchasing some of the vernal pool team books for the schools (EES, Regional) & the Town Hall.
 - C. Migration
 1. The order of migration to the breeding ponds begins with the wood frogs, then the Salamanders follow.
 2. If there is no rain, both migrate together after March 25.
 - D. Information should be on the Open Space section of the town web site (www.essexma.org)
 1. The committee should try to find someone proactive on the Conservation Committee
 2. If someone can be found to work with, Derek will lead a group on an evening field trip.
 - E. Ponds can only be certified in April/May so we need to make a plan for the 2011 cycle.
- II. Julie reported that the revised Open Space Action Plan has been accepted and thus, the Open Space Plan's validity is extended for two years, until 2014.
- III. Plan for identifying Open Space supporters
 - A. We need a vehicle to communicate efficiently with as large a number of supporters as possible.
 1. It is useful to let people know what we do and why we need support.
 2. A list should include addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.
 - B. Leslie & Maria are supposed to look into other conservation organizations' Annual Reports to try to identify Essex members.
- IV. Recruiting new Open Space Committee members
 - A. Tammy suggested contacting Margot Lacey of Winthrop Street.
 - B. Committee members are urged to recommend and recruit.

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- C. A special recruiting meeting should be arranged.
 - 1. Prospective members need a list of our current projects.
 - 2. Tasks from the Action Plan should be distributed.

- V. Long Term Planning Committee (LTPC) report
 - A. Their initial grant proposal was not funded.
 - B. Mike Dyer, Chair, has asked for a joint meeting.

VI. At 9:20 p. m. the meeting was adjourned.

**Our next meetings will be on Wed., April 28 and Tuesday, May 25, 2010
at 7:30 p. m. in the Staff Conference Room of the Essex Elementary School.**