

Northfield Open Space Committee  
Tuesday, September 12, 2023 – Town Hall

**Present:** Matt Diluzio, Chair; Joanne McGee, Bob Perlman, Sue Space

**Absent:** Sarah Kerns

*Items in italics are due by the next meeting.*

1. Agenda approved
2. Minutes: July 20, 2023, minutes approved. Bob/Sue 5 – 0.  
August 24, 2023, minutes approved. Matt/Bob 5 – 0.
3. Grant letter: Matt distributed copies of the letter to Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation, supporting the town's application for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program.
4. Hogweed discussion: Highway Department should remove plant.
5. Action Steps: When members reviewed the Action Steps from the 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan, we discovered that we were all working from different versions. The plan linked on the town Open Space site is from 2013. The plan linked from Northfieldmasstrails.org is the current 2021 version. *Matt will talk with Sandra or Andrea about the outdated link.*
  - a. Bob talked with John Lepore about the proposed outdoor classroom space at PVRs and NES. Because the school and town need to rework the lease on the NES land, trail work has not started.
  - b. Julia emailed Matt that she had walked the Mill Brook property with the DCR land grant coordinator along with Sarah Kerns and Mallory Sullivan, Northfield's grant administrator. Julia would like to build the long bridge proposed by Jerry Wagener. She is also interested in collaborating with Mount Grace's potential landscape scale project in Northfield.
  - c. Joanne met with Sarah Wells and Aaron Nelson at Mount Grace about possible outreach grants organized by North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership. She proposed a "neighborhood meeting" of New England Trail landowners to use some National Park Service funding for easements. *Joanne will contact Julia.*

- d. Matt is interested in building a trail from the end of Old Turnpike Road to the NET. *Bob will talk with Steve Malsch about possible water land conflicts and with Sam Richardson about trail history and possible routes.*
  - e. Other comments: Mount Grace's annual meeting is Sunday, Sept. 17 at Bascom Farm in Gill. Mount Grace is sponsoring a sunset equinox hike at Richardson Outlook on Friday, Sept. 22. Mountgrace.org.
6. Open Space future: General discussion about Open Space Committee. Joanne emphasized that we need more members. Bob suggested graphic arts students at PVRs might help with a recruiting flyer. *He will call the school.*
7. Next meeting: Matt will check dates of Selectboard meetings and email members about possible dates.

Respectfully submitted,



Joanne McGee, Secretary

