

# Northfield Open Space Committee

## Minutes, Nov. 15, 2016

### Town Hall – Land Use Room

*Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.*

Present: Julia Blyth, Robin Conley, Bob Hall, Joanne McGee, Sue Ross, Jerry Wagener, Chair.  
Absent: Mike Barry

The meeting opened at 7:35.

1. Two items were added to the **agenda**.

2. The **minutes** for Sept. 20, 2016, were approved. Joanne/Sue 5-0  
The **minutes** for October 18, 2016, were approved. Joanne/Bob 4-0-1

3. **Member comments:**

- Bob Hall found a map on the internet of all the megaliths (stone structures) in this area. *Bob will email the map and the site to all committee members.*

- Robin is concerned about the letter to the Recorder about ATV use in the new portion of the Northfield State Forest and felt that people need to be educated about the ATV restrictions. Anyone using on private property must have written permission.

- Joanne attended the ceremony which opened the fishing hole in Athol as a memorial to Sen. Bob Wetmore.

- Jerry (1) reminded the committee that the Barn Program will be presented at the library on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 6:30. Al Stone will be the speaker. (2) At King Philip's Hill the existing trail goes outside the property boundary because of a deep gulch. *He will bring this problem to the Stewardship Advisory Committee on Dec. 1.* He distributed a map of the trail.

4. **Appointments:**

Robin to the CPC (1 yr. term) Sue/Joanne 4-0

Jerry to the Agricultural Commission (3 yr. term) Sue/Robin 4-0

Joanne to the Stewardship Advisory committee (2 yr. term) with Jerry as alternate  
Sue/Robin 2-0

5. **Community Park Update:** Since no land is available, the committee is meeting every other month.

6. **Community Preservation Committee:** Because of a shortage of members, the committee is not able to meet. Some possible new members are in the pipeline.

7. **Chapter 61 issues:** After describing the various components of Ch. 61, Joanne explained that a complete update of new Ch. 61 lands was not available. She found minor changes such as changing sod to field crop. Beth from the Assessor's office emailed Joanne three changes: Apple Creek Farm is back in Ch. 61, Northfield Golf Course, including the wetlands, is now in Ch. 61B (recreation), and land owned by Peter & Kellie Sibley on Warwick Rd. is now also in Ch. 61B.

Since the committee is interested in setting some priorities for Ch. 61 land, Joanne described some criteria for assessment of parcels. Natural resource criteria include water resources, BioMap2 and Core Habitats maps, Critical Natural Landscapes information, wildlife habitat and diversity, and connectedness of the location to other conserved land or forests. Other criteria include quality of farmland, recreational possibilities, and historical, cultural and scenic values. The Greenprinting done by TPL several years ago is especially important as a way to identify spots in town of extreme importance to the residents. Joanne distributed a list of criteria and a sample of the Shelburne Falls Open Space Committee's evaluation form for conservation parcels.

The committee discussed overlaying maps with town lot plan maps. Robin discussed a request from Brian for all committee members to look at Ch. 61 lands to see which parcels might be of interest, an enormous and time-consuming task. *The Community Park Committee will take a look at the Ch. 61 parcels.*

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at ?. The next meeting will be January 17, 2017. There will be no meeting in December unless something crucial arises.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee

CPC	Community Preservation Committee
TPL	Trust for Public Land
NMH	Northfield Mount Hermon School
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DCR	Department of Conservation and Recreation
FRCOG	Franklin Regional Council of Governments
DFW	Division of Fisheries and Wildlife