

Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes, Mar 21, 2017

Town Hall Auditorium

Present: Mike Barry, Julia Blyth, Robin Conley, Joanne McGee, Sue Ross, Kate Rossiter, Jerry Wagener

Absent: Bob Hall

Guests: Amanda Lewis, Recreational Trails Coordinator, Dept of Conservation & Recreation

Dwayne Ericson, DCR District Manager

Other participants listed at end of minutes

The meeting opened at 7:32 p.m.

Trail Renewal on DCR land above the ridge:

Amanda Lewis presented a large map of the new Northfield State Forest (formerly NMH forest) with all trails that she had GPSed traced in color. The new forest is classified "woodland" which means it will be logged on a sustainable basis. It is also to be used for passive recreation including hiking, walking, mountain biking, skiing, and snowshoeing. Hunting is allowed, but off-road vehicles (ATV) are not allowed. There was substantial discussion about the prohibition of ATVs. Amanda explained that, through a decision process, the state selected five State Forests that have trails for ATVs.

She explained her progress in tracing old and current trails and her recommendations for permanent trails. She invited the onlookers to the map to point out historic and favorite points and paths and to comment on proposed gates and parking areas.

Her handout outlined trail maintenance, questions, recommendations, and the possibility of a Friends Group. Her goals include circular loops, removing trails that wander into the NMH lands around the reservoir, a rehabbed trail to the summit of Notch Mountain, and signage.

In mid-June the Student Conservation Corps will spend 10 days working on the trails.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting will be April 18, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee, Secretary

The following people attended the meeting:

Howard Hastings	Shelby Ashline, reporter
Hughes Pack	Aaron Bordner
Jenny Tufts	Brian Bordner
Craig Hefner	Robert Hendry
Barry Bordner	Ray Girard
Sam Richardson	Barbara Richardson

Handouts: Map of new portion of Northfield State Forest

Northfield State Forest/NMH Property Acquisition, Trail Plan Meeting