

Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes, March 20, 2018

Town Hall – Select board Room

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

Present: Julia Blyth, Robin Conley, Joanne McGee, Sue Space, Jerry Wagener, Chair.

Absent: Mike Barry, Bill Copeland, Rich Fitzgerald

Guest: Rob Hendry

The meeting opened at 7:30.

1. Millbrook trail maintenance proposal: Rob Hendry distributed a map of the Millbrook area that indicates a southern section that needs work. The trail is overgrown, “Virtually impassable” in places, and very wet. The bridge needs major work. The committee discussed repairs, invasive plant problem, using pallets, and possibility of a Recreational Trails Grant. The project was divided into three phases - trail clearing which Rob feels can be done by volunteers in half day; small wet spots (pallets are a possibility); and major bridge work.
Jerry will talk with the Snows, the landowners. Rob will organize a work day scheduled after the Ames trail work is completed, probably mid to late May. Robin will investigate a GCC connection for bridge design.
2. Ames trail update: The start date for the construction of the viewing platform has been postponed to April 21 due to snow and frozen ground.
3. King Philips Hill trail idea: Because the KPH trail is partially on Mitchell land, the committee is concerned that the current permission may be in jeopardy in the future. Jerry distributed a map which outlines a new trail proposal that avoids the encroachment.
4. Prep for April 7 PTO dinner: *Jerry will do a short presentation about the work of the Open Space Committee. Joanne will briefly comment on the progress of the GSGT Jeffrey Ames Accessible trail.*
5. Minutes: The minutes for Nov. 21, 2017 were approved (Joanne/Sue 4-0, 1 Ab). The minutes for Dec. 19, 2017 were approved (Joanne/Julia 4 – 0). Since there was no quorum at the January meeting, there are no official minutes.
6. Landscape Partnership conservation concept: On hold for now.
7. Member comments: Julia announced that the town has a grant from FRCOG for a tree inventory to assist the tree warden in caring for the trees. There will be a tree hearing about extensive tree cutting at 73 Pierson Rd on April 3, 2018. Joanne is attending the Massachusetts Land Trust Conference on March 24. Robin after weeks in Florida has a new appreciation for open space. She noticed a fisher cat in the Pierson Rd area. Jerry is working with Bob Macomber from NMH to meet with John Alden (Finance/Property) about the acreage for a potential park.
8. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Next meeting is April 17, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee

Joanne McGee, Secretary

Susan A. Apaca

Robt K Conley

J. F. Wagner

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