

Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes, December 18, 2018

Town Hall – Land Use Room

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

Present: Robin Conley, Joanne McGee, Sue Space (via FaceTime), Jerry Wagener

Absent: Julia Blythe, Bill Copeland, Rich Fitzgerald

The meeting opened at 7:35.

1. Adoption of agenda - no changes
2. Approval of Sep 18 and Nov 20 minutes - no changes to Sep 18 minutes; moved Joanne/Robin, approved. One change made to Nov 20 minutes (added "town hall" in item 4.) and corrected a typo; move Robin/Sue, approved.
3. Trail updates - Jerry mentioned the two roads on the Mitchell land, behind King Philips Hill, one toward the river and one up the hill toward the railroad; pretty well cleared between these two fairly far apart roads.
4. 2018 stewardship award - Jerry reported that Mike Barry indicates the ConsCom has had no further contact with the Snows (after his report to the committee two years ago). The committee chose Rob Hendry for the 2018 recipient of the citizens stewardship award: moved Joanne/Robin, approved.
5. Hudson River renewal energy plan - Joanne brought two full copies of this plan; Robin took one and *will read and then pass on to Rich. Joanne will send a note to Rich that we would like to have a joint meeting with the Planning Board later in the spring to discuss the report.* The Historical Commission will be invited to this joint meeting.
6. Landscape Partnership conservation concept - Jerry mentioned that Jere Nelson had died, but did not know of the status of his property off Gulf Rd; Mount Grace is interested in the property and it is a potential part in this project. Joanne brought a topo map that we studied, especially in the Beers Mountain and Roman T. Hill area, which is also part of the project. *Joanne will attempt to find some historical data on this area prior to contacting owners about the project.*
7. Member comments - Joanne has written an article on invasive plants that will be published in the town newsletter. Robin has met with the Recreation Commission about the potential park land; they are interested and all of the RecCom members will check out that property for playing field use. That area currently has much

water on it, and a test for soil suitability for playing fields is an absolute requirement. Jerry mentioned that Mount Grace is installing another accessible trail at Eagle Reserve in Royalston, with a viewing platform cantilevered over the lake; the diamond pier foundation was installed in early December. There was some discussion about revision of the OSRP, scheduled for 2020. Joanne and Jerry did most of the work on the last revision (2013 version) and neither of them want to do that again; best alternative at this time is Conway Landscape (now moved to Northampton).

8. Other business - none

9. Adjourn (next meeting January 15, 2019) - adjourned at 8:35

Respectfully submitted by Jerry Wagener

Joanne McLeer

Susan L. Spence

J. L. Wagener

Rob K. Carby