

Northfield Open Space Committee Minutes

January 15, 2019

Town Hall – Secretary's office

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

Present: Julia Blyth, Robin Conley, Bill Copeland, Joanne McGee, Sue Space (via Facetime), Jerry Wagener
Absent: Rich Fitzgerald

The meeting opened at 7:35

1. The December 18, 2018, minutes were approved. Bill/Robin 5-0
2. Trail updates: Jerry has emailed Amanda Lewis to get an updated trail map for the new portion of Northfield State Forest on Birnam Road. Alderbrook trail is being well-used.
3. Llewelyn right-of-first-refusal: The Llewelyns plan to convert five acres from Ch. 61A to the construction of a solar array which will be high enough to allow agriculture underneath the panels. *As the coordinating committee for this Ch. 61 ROFR, the Open Space Committee will meet Feb. 12 to hear comments from the pertinent committees and send a recommendation to the Selectboard. Jerry will send the 1/15/2019 memo to the committees including the assessor's map and a copy of the policy. Joanne will chair the February meeting. Jerry will send abutters' names and addresses to Joanne.* The ROFR procedure requires that the following committees are notified: Conservation Committee, Planning Board, Board of Assessors, Agricultural and Historical Commissions. Robin expressed concern that the Recreation Commission also needs to be notified in case land might be available for playing fields and parks.
4. Annual report: After the elimination of one paragraph, the committee voted to accept it. Joanne/Bill 5-0.
5. Hudson Scenic Guide to siting renewable energy in the Hudson Valley: Action was postponed until Rich Fitzgerald is available.
6. Landscape Conservation: No action. Joanne is doing some research.
7. Member comments: **Joanne** announced the Open Space Conference scheduled for April 27. Place TBD. **Robin** met with Rec Commission to gauge interest in possibility of lower playing field adjacent to Pauchaug boat ramp parking. Because of a water and potential landfill problem, the Park Committee did not pursue a soil suitability study (Est. cost \$5,300). Rec Com. agreed with decision. **Jerry** announced that the Selectboard awarded 2018 Citizen Stewardship Award to Rob Henry. He also met with the Finance Committee about the OSC budget. There are several grant possibilities to fund the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan.
8. Meeting adjourned at 9:00. Next meeting will be Feb 12, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee

CPC Community Preservation Committee
CPA Community Preservation Act
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

GNWA
ROFR

Greater Northfield Watershed Association
Right of First Refusal

NET New England National Scenic Trail
FOAM Friends of Alderbrook Meadow