

Northfield Open Space Committee Minutes

March 19, 2019
Town Hall Auditorium

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

Present: Julia Blyth, Joanne McGee, Sue Spence (Telephone), Jerry Wagener, Chair.

Absent: Robin Conley, Bill Copeland, Rich Fitzgerald

Guest: Joel Fowler

The meeting opened at 7:30.

1. **Fowler Right of First Refusal:** The larger thirty-one-acre parcel of Fowler land will remain in Ch. 61 under Chapin ownership. However, a six-acre portion of the land is being removed from Ch. 61 and, thus, the town has a right of first refusal. The Open space Committee voted to recommend that the Selectboard not exercise its right of first refusal. Joanne/Sue 4 – 0.
The correct ROFR procedure is dated 2016.
2. **Minutes:** The January 15, 2019, minutes were approved. Julia/Joanne 4 – 0. The February 19, 2019, minutes were approved. Joanne/Julia 4 – 0.
3. **Trail updates:** There is no final updated map for the new portion of the Northfield State Forest on the Northfield Ridge area. *Jerry will wait until after the Land Trust Conference to contact Amanda. Jerry will look for the hiker signs which Sam gave him last year.* The signs are supposed to be installed on Gulf Road at Brush Mt.
4. **Hudson solar siting:** Postponed until Rich Fitzgerald is here.
5. **Landscape Partnership conservation concept:** Mount Grace is interested in developing a landscape partnership project in Northfield. *Jerry will talk with Bill Llewelyn.*
6. **Member comments:**
Julia has been attending meetings about the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee relicensing for the First Light Northfield facility for the last two and half years. Joanne will attend a meeting organized by Connecticut River Conservancy on March 21 for recreation stakeholders prior to a FERC stakeholder meeting March 29. The requests presented by Northfield include a riverside trail from Pauchaug boat ramp to the new Schell Bridge and from the bridge to the Mill River. Also requested is more accessible access to the river for kayaks and canoes. Bennett Brook is listed as a possible access point. Jerry commented that about 100 yards south of the BB location is a potential access point that is not so steep. *Joanne* announced Earth Day activities for volunteers at Alderbrook on April 20. *FOAM members will check the trail once or twice a month on designated months. Joe Stacy – April; Joanne- May; Sue Space – June; Jerry – July; Julia – September.*
7. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Next meeting is April 16, 2019.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne McGee

Joanne McGee
Sue Spence *J. H. Wagener*