Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes

September 17, 2019 Town Hall – Land Use Room

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

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

Absent: Jerry Wagener

Guest: Helena Farrell, Land Use Planner, FRCOG

Adjuncts: Jenny Tufts, Joan Stoia (Northfield Historical Commission and NATBA)

And Christine and Bill Copeland

The meeting opened at 7:00.

Julia announced that Arthur Davis will be joining the Open Space Committee as soon as he is sworn in by the Town clerk.

Revision of Section 3, Northfield Open Space and Recreation Plan: Helena Farrell distributed a few copies of Section 3 and explained that she is looking for local knowledge to add to her statistical and background information. Joan Stoia requested that the plan include more information about the early inhabitants of Northfield. She will write something and email it to Helena.

Discussion centered around use of woodlands and forest in Northfield and the effectiveness of using a percentage for wildlands as proposed in Wildlands and Woodlands, the publication from Harvard Forest. It was felt that a forest education component could be part of the Objectives and Action Plan. Members also noted missing and inaccurate information throughout the Section 3 draft. Helena requested that members go over Section 3 and send edits to her. She will email a Word document to use for editing.

Meetings: Joanne announced that the Massachusetts Trails Conference will be November 11 in Leominster. Julia distributed a flyer about the Regional Conservation Partnership meeting on November 13 at UMASS.

Julia requested the committee to review Jerry's revised survey. It was also suggested that she contact hikers who had been at Amanda's meeting to determine a point of contact to communicate with the state.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be Tuesday October 15, 2019, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne McGee, Secretary

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

NATABA Northfield Area Tourism and Business Association