

# Northfield Open Space Committee

## Minutes

Aug 18, 2020 - ZOOM Meeting

*Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.*

**Present:** Julia Blyth, Robin Conley, Joanne McGee, Sue Space, Jenny Tufts, Jerry Wagener

The meeting opened at 7:30 p.m.

Julia will present the 2019 Citizen Stewardship Award to Jay Loubri, teacher at Northfield Elementary School, at the August 24<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting at 6 p.m.

1. The minutes of July 7, 2020 were approved. Jenny/Jerry 4 -0-1
2. Officer elections will be postponed until September meeting.
3. PVRS outdoor learning: Robin feels that educational conditions at PVRS are an opportunity for teachers to use the school's outdoor areas as learning laboratories and that we should remind teachers again about John Lepore's Pioneering Stewardship Plan, an extensive discussion of environmental concerns and suggestions. Last year she approached PVRS teachers about invasive plants, but she is unsure about the identity of current science teachers. She also said that someone has started a trail around the beaver pond. John's plan is available online at [https://issuu.com/johnlepore/docs/pvrs\\_psp\\_summaryissuu](https://issuu.com/johnlepore/docs/pvrs_psp_summaryissuu). *Julia is requesting committee members review the plan and send her suggestions.* Andrew Vernon will try to find out who is doing the trail.
4. Ct. River Beach problems: Because of misuse and poor design of Pauchaug boat ramp, residents are complaining about conditions. It is suggested that a multi-stake holder meeting be convened with DCR, town residents, highway department and the OSC to discuss the issues. Committee members also discussed location of potential swimming spots on the Ct. River. Joanne suggested that everyone visit West River Park, a new swimming and park area on the West River in Brattleboro just past the new I 91 bridge.
5. Trail brochures: Jerry picked up and distributed new trail brochures. The revised all-trails brochure is ready to be printed. 100 copies \$187. 250 copies \$460. Committee decided to order 200 brochures. Our online trails info is on a separate website from the new town website which does not have a suitable format for our trail information. Julia recommends switching to Word Press, a website software company, as it would be less expensive than the current website developer. *Julia will post trail website info on Next Door.*
6. Trail updates: The Calvin Swan/Brush Mt project is complete. The New England National Scenic Trail now is relocated from Gulf Road to Old Wendell Road.
7. OSRP update: Helena is working on Section 5 which will differ markedly from the 2012 version. The committee reviewed Table 9 Action Steps. *Julia asked committee members to do a final review of the Action Steps.* Jerry suggests that committee members take responsibility for two or three action steps for a year to increase our accountability. Julia suggested we might also try a quarterly review of progress.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Jenny/Julia 6 – 0. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 15, 2020.
9. Robin was voted most improved at ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee, Secretary

PVRS	Pioneer Valley Regional School
DCR	Department of Conservation and Recreation