

Northfield Open Space Committee

minutes November 10, 2020

Zoom meeting 7 p.m.

Items in italics require action before next meeting.

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

1. Minutes: *Joanne will resend minutes from 9/15/2020 and 10/20/2020 for votes at the next meeting 11/17/2020.*

2. Millbrook wetlands project:

- Julia talked with Shelby Snow about some sort of trail easement. The Snows are talking with their lawyer. *Julia will send samples of trail easements and will keep in touch with them.* Other options are conservation restrictions or trail license. Best option would be a thirty-year easement or one for perpetuity.

- Funding options include applying for a Recreational Trails grant or CPA funds. The Trail Grant would mean more money and more improvements, but also need a great deal of preparation time for the Feb 1, 2021, deadline. A CPA request (deadline Jan. 15) would be somewhat easier to manage, but possibly less money and fewer projects.

- Snowmobile bridge options. The committee discussed at length the advantages and disadvantages of a fiberglass bridge or a wooden bridge, the durability and possible protection from snowmobiles. *Joanne will continue to attempt to contact members of the snowmobile community.*

- Fire station location – The Snows say the town has contacted them about selling Main St parcels for new fire station. The committee expressed concern about construction impacting Surprise Trail.

- CPA funds. Because the Schell Bridge project will potentially need land at the entrance of the bridge, Jenny feels that CPA open space money be saved for those expenses. However, at this point there seems to be no way to “save” CPA money. And protect it from other projects. Open Space gets about \$2500 per year from CPA; there is about \$160,000 in total in CPA fund budget of which 65% is undesignated and could be used for open space projects.

- Accessible trail ideas include making the Surprise Trail accessible or developing an accessible trail from Library parking lot to connect with Library Trail and pond area.

- Rec Trails Grant – Consensus is to start the process to apply for a Rec Trails Grant.

3. Section 9 priorities: Julia displayed a spreadsheet with the results of our Section 9 Action Plan priorities. She will send these results to Helena Farrell at FRCOG for the map creation.

4. Next meeting: The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee, Secretary