

Northfield Open Space Committee
Minutes, Oct 21, 2014
Town Hall – Planning Board Room

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

Present: Julia Blyth, Bob Hall, Joanne McGee, Sue Ross, Jenny Tufts, Jerry Wagener, Chair.

Absent: Mike Barry, Kate Rossiter (LOA)

The meeting opened at 7:30.

1. **Adoption of agenda**: No change

2. **Approval of minutes**: The minutes of Sept. 16, 2014, were approved as amended. Bob/Sue 6-0

3. **Member comments**:

Jerry announced that the LAND grant for the Ames conservation restriction was approved. The presentation will take place Monday at 3 pm at Unity Park in Turners Falls.

Jenny feels there is some opposition to the Ames project because CPA financing of the Ames CR would leave less money to be used for youth projects. The Community Preservation Committee recommends that \$55,000 be used for the Ames project - \$31,000 from designated open space funds and \$24,000 from undesignated funds. The undesignated fund balance would then be at least \$100,000 which can be used for a Community Park. The CPC forum has been changed from Oct. 30 to Nov. 13 at 7 pm. The special town meeting is Nov. 24.

Joanne (1) would like the framed New England Trail poster to be hung downstairs near the Open Space display. She will email Tammy about hanging the picture. (2) She talked with Brian Noble, the new town administrator, about the problems with access to trails in the winter. Brian recommended that the Open Space Committee send a letter to the Selectboard listing parking areas that need to be plowed. *Jerry will write the letter.* Places that need to be plowed are the Brush Mt. parking lot, some space at King Philip Hill, the Satan Kingdom parking lot, the full length of Alexander Hill Road to the transmission lines, and parking space for the Mill Brook trail.

Julia announced a series of nature walks along the proposed pipeline during the week of Nov. 8 to Nov. 15. Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and Franklin Land Trust will help with the walks.

4. **Trust for Public Land option on NMH land**: TPL expects to hear about the Landscape Partnership Grant soon. TPL is also under a confidentiality agreement with two potential purchasers for the East Northfield Water Company. The survey of all the lots on the NMH land continues.

5. **Community Park committee report**: Julia reported that the committee, which is meeting every other Monday night, is creating a list of criteria and working on the RFP for land purchase. Matthias Nevins from Mount Grace will be assisting the committee.

6. **Status of trailhead kiosks**: Jerry is working on the kiosks which will be placed at various trailheads around town.

7. **Northfield Triathlon**: The first Northfield triathlon, held at First Light's Northfield Mountain was a great success. A large contingent from Northfield Mount Hermon School participated.

8. The **next meeting** will be November 18, 2014, at 7:30 pm. . The meeting adjourned at 8:30!

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee, Secretary