

Northfield Open Space Committee

DRAFT

Minutes

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Jan. 20, 2015

Town Hall – Planning Board Room

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

Present: Julia Blyth, Joanne McGee, Lesley Powers, Sue Ross, Jenny Tufts, Jerry Wagener, Chair.

Absent: Mike Barry, Kate Rossiter

The meeting opened at 7:30.

Welcome to our new member, Leslie Powers

1. **Adoption of agenda**: All ok

2. **Approval of minutes**: With a few changes, the minutes of Dec 22, 2014, were approved. Jenny/Sue 4-0

3. **Member comments**: Jerry (1) presented a revised group of maps for the Brush Mt. kiosk. (2) is meeting this week with Brian and Jack Spanbauer about the community park and will discuss park planning with Henry Renski from UMASS Department of Landscape, Architecture, and Regional Planning.

Sue reminded us that Henry Renski's lab staff person worked with Northfield with other projects. *Sue will get the name for Jerry.*

Julia announced that Transition Northfield is planning a fair for town groups and committees at Northfield Elementary School on Mar 22, 2015. *The Open Space Committee will plan a display table.*

Jenny: At its Jan. 29 meeting the Community Preservation Committee will discuss increasing the Community Preservation surcharge. (Jerry can't be at the CPC meeting, as he intends to go to the Kinder-Morgan open house planned for Jan 29 in Fitchburg.)

Joanne felt that it was important to be proactive with the Finance Committee about the possible increase in CPA because the Finance committee is really busy with 2016 budgets. *Jenny will talk with Tony Matteo, a Fin Com member who is also on the CPC.*

4. **TPL option on NMH land**: Trust for Public Land talked with NMH about potentially incorporating the envisioned community park land into the TPL option for the 1650 acres. There is currently a shortfall in funding for the option; TPL is looking for additional grant funds and may need help from the town. No word on the water company.

5. **Community Park update**: The Northfield Community Park Committee (NCPC) wrote to the Selectboard that the park project needs funding and that the committee will support an increase in the CPA surcharge or setting aside money each year. The NCPC is concerned about contamination from the adjacent landfill.

6. **Trails brochures and kiosk handouts**: Three kiosks are installed; two more are ready to go. Jerry displayed beautifully-engineered box holders for trail handouts which he will attach to the kiosks in early March. Julia showed samples of the handouts.
7. **TGP pipeline update**: The compressor film will be shown Thursday night in Erving. Kinder-Morgan announced its series of open meetings. *Jerry will ask Jack and Brian about an OSC letter to FERC.*
8. **OSC budget**: Jerry sent the budget to the Finance Committee.
9. **2014 Citizen Stewardship Award**: The committee voted to award the 2014 award to Boy Scout Troop 9 in recognition of their work on trails and the Calvin Swan site. Jenny/Sue 6 – 0. *Joanne will contact Steve; Jenny will contact the Selectboard about a date for the presentation.*
10. **Annual Report**: *Because of several concerns about the 2014 annual report, Jerry will send around a draft. Send comments to Jerry by next Monday, Jan 26.*
11. **2015 Open Space Conference**: Mount Grace is organizing the conference and is seeking ideas.
12. **Turk property**: Joanne and Jerry walked through the Turk property on Rt. 63. The owner would like to sell and also know about conservation options. *Joanne will bring more information to the March meeting.*
13. **Adjournment**: The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting will be Mar. 17, 2015. There will be no February meeting unless an emergency rears its ugly head.

Joanne McGee, Secretary