

# Northfield Open Space Committee

**DRAFT**

Minutes

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July 21, 2015

Town Hall – Planning Board Room

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

Present: Joanne McGee, Leslie Powers, Sue Ross, Jerry Wagener, Chair.

Absent: Mike Barry, Julia Blyth, Bob Hall, Kate Rossiter

Guests: Barb and Sam Richardson

The meeting opened at 7:30.

1. **Report from Trails Association**: Barb and Sam Richardson distributed their report on the series of hikes which they have led on the third Sunday of the month (report included). The hikes have been jointly sponsored by the Northfield Trails Association and the Open Space Committee. The Richardsons propose that they do six hikes per year and ask that the Open Space Committee take responsibility for the remainder, including this September.

2. **Adoption of agenda**: So done.

3. **Minutes**: The minutes of June 16, 2015, were approved. Leslie/Sue 4 – 0.

4. **Member comments**:

Jerry returned \$2.21 to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year. Member Jenny Tufts has resigned because of her move to Washington DC.

5. **Trust for Public Land option on Northfield Mount Hermon land**: Jerry received a positive report from JT Horn of TPL who says that the short term contract between TPL and NMH has been extended. They are working on a longer term contract. The Landscape Partnership Grant has been renewed. The purchase of East Northfield Water Company by Valley Water System is still in the works. TPL is working on a plan to split the land between Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Town of Northfield and the water company. *TPL will present a plan in September.* There are still real estate and regulatory issues to be solved.

6. **Community Park update**: Jerry met with Brian Noble and the Northfield Community Park Committee (NCPC). After Jerry read the NCPC's Request for Proposal for park land, the committee recommended that the acreage be changed from 15 acres to 10 - 20 acres. Jerry will bring our recommendation to the NCPC committee. Jerry met with the Department of Environmental Protection about the old NMH laundry landfill near the boat ramp. The latest DEP test (two monitoring wells, in 2013) for 30 to 35 substances showed no detectable traces except for a small amount of cadmium. There are at least 8 monitoring wells, all of which will be regularly tested after the the landfill construction contract is completed.

7. **TGP pipeline update**: Jerry reported on his visit to Wellsboro, PA, where he measured decibel levels at the compressor station.

8. **Ames Conservation restriction**: Done!!! Due to a last minute donation, the deal is closed.

9. **Letter to Selectboard regarding potential effects of a gas pipeline on watersheds**: The committee wordsmithed Jerry's draft letter and approved the results in a motion. Joanne/Leslie 4 – 0. *Jerry will circulate the latest draft and send it on to the Selectboard.*

10. **Appointment of Community Preservation Committee rep**: Jerry suggested and the committee appoint Robin Conley as its representative to the Community Preservation Fund (CPC) for one year. Motion to this effect passed: Leslie/Joanne 3-1. There was some concern about communication between the Open Space Committee and the CPC. It was suggested that Robin be briefed every so often at an Open Space meeting.

11. **Appointment of Stewardship Committee representatives**: The Stewardship Committee is a subcommittee of the Conservation Committee and will be responsible for managing town conservation lands and subcontracting the monitoring of the CRs on lands in Northfield. Bob Pasteris was voted as the Open Space Committee's non-member representative. Leslie/Sue 4 – 0. Joanne and Jerry will alternate as the OS representative. Nick Fleck is organizing the first meeting.

Joanne reminded everyone about the cookout for the AmeriCorps staff at the Copeland's on Thursday, July 30.

12. **Next meeting**: It was voted that no meeting be held in August. The next meeting will be September 15, 2015. Joanne/Leslie 4 – 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee, Secretary