

# Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes, Jan. 19, 2016

Town Hall – Planning Board Room

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

**Present:** Mike Barry, Robin Conley, Bob Hall, Joanne McGee, Leslie Powers, Sue Ross, Jerry Wagener, Chair.

**Absent:** Kate Rossiter (LOA)

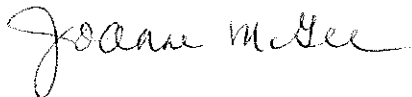
**Guest:** J.T. Horn, Project Manager, Trust for Public Land

The meeting opened at 7:35.

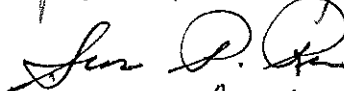
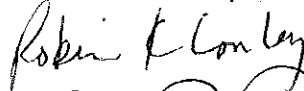
1. **Update on NMH Lands:** JT reported progress on the purchase of the NMH lands.
  - **Funding:** With a \$250,000 grant from National Fish and Wildlife Association, a successful vote for \$100,000 of CPA money at Town Meeting, and the DCR money, there will be enough funding.
  - **Colonial Water Co** – JT met with DCR and DEP about the purchase. With a positive response from DPU, JT is accelerating work on the binding contract while Colonial Water Co works on its regulatory filings, watershed plan, forestry plan and emergency plan. Colonial Water Co proposes a public meeting with town committees and water customers to explain the plan. Water Company fee holdings will include reservoir, dam, building, and immediate land with a conservation restriction that bans commercial development and subdivisions.
  - Blue hatched land (see map), about 293 acres, will be owned by town and leased to Water Company for a payment equivalent to Ch 61 taxes. DEP insists that water quality has top priority; the utility will have right to drill wells, if necessary, do forestry to maintain waiver on filtration plant. Because of DEP restrictions, hiking access will probably be limited. Forestry proceeds will be split between town and utility. The committee had questions about cutting violations for which landowner is responsible, land management plan and CR monitoring.
  - **DCR land** will include portions of Zones A, B, C because of changes in mapping to follow tributaries. DEP and DCR will work together on these outlying parcels to protect rare plants, etc.
  - **North East Surveying Co.** will be finished by end of January. JT said that this real estate transaction is the most complicated he has seen with its 63 parcels dating back into the 1800's. The parcels owned by the town will include title insurance. JT is not involved in problem with utility road on Great Hemlock parcel.
  - **JT's next steps** are an improved map, draft lease and draft CR, copies of which he will send to Jerry and Brian. JT will brief the Con com at a forthcoming meeting.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes from Dec. 15, 2016, were approved. Robin/Sue 6 – 0. 1 Abstention
3. **Member comments:** Jerry has temporarily solved the web site difficulties with the trails. Robin C. announced that Robin McKeon is serving as a conduit between the town and Emmett Mitchell at the National Christian Foundation. She is specifically talking to him about leases on the Pierson Rd fields.

4. **Next meeting:** There will be no February meeting. The next meeting will be March 15, 2016.  
The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm,

Respectfully submitted,



Joanne McGee, Secretary



TPL	Trust for Public Land
NMH	Northfield Mount Hermon School
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DCR	Department of Conservation and Recreation
FRCOG	Franklin Regional Council of Governments
DFW	Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
CR	Conservation Restriction
EEA	Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
GNWA	Greater Northfield Watershed Association
BOS	Board of Selectmen
ConCom	Conservation Commission
MGLCT	Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

**Attachment:** NMH forest, Northfield Forest Landscape Partnership, DCR