

Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes, March 15, 2016

Town Hall – Land Use Room

Present: Robin Conley, Mike Barry, Leslie Powers, Julia Blyth, Jerry Wagener, Chair.

Absent: Kate Rossiter, Joanne McGee, Sue Ross

Jerry called the meeting to order at 7:35.

1. Agenda adopted

2. Approval of Jan 19 minutes: Postponed until next meeting.

3. Member Comments:

-Jerry has updated the trail info on the OSC website, including changing some of the interactive maps. It still needs some work because it is shared with GNWA right now.

-Mike announced that the Mass Land Conservation Conference will be held April 2 and the Mass Forest Alliance Conference is April 9.

-Julia reported that the Stewardship Committee has now come up with a purpose statement which the Conservation Commission supports.

4. Updates:

TPL/NMH Project- Jerry talked to JT Horn; the main change since January is that the DEP does not want the water company to lease the town land, but wants a utility easement on that land. Brian thinks that there could be some kind of pilot program where the water company helps the town on some projects in lieu of a lease payment. The CPC has approved \$100,000 for this land purchase.

Community Park- Robin reported on the progress of this committee. Attention has shifted to secure playing fields; Robin spoke with Larry Edge from National Christian Foundation about leasing the existing fields on Pierson Rd. NCF is receptive, but the Recreation Commission is hesitant because of the big upfront investment in creating baseball fields and the short-term nature of a lease. Jerry, Robin, and Jeremy Underwood (RecCom) recently walked the "lower field" on the NMH land near the Pauchaug boat ramp and found it to be suitable for playing field construction. Conversations will continue.

Alderbrook accessible trail- Matthias Nevins from Mount Grace recently reported that we got the DCR grant for trail building! He will meet with the Conservation Commission tomorrow, and hopefully trail building will commence this spring/summer.

TGP Pipeline- Rumor has it that Leslie personally stopped the compressor station! Julia explained the various DPU dockets. There will be a hearing on March 30 at the Greenfield Middle School for DPU to decide if they should give TGP surveyors permission to enter private land. Julia thinks that the town, perhaps the Conservation Commission, should comment regarding lands that have conservation restrictions held by the town, such as Sam Richardson's land.

5. Speck sensors for pipeline: A bulk order of particulate matter monitors has been made. Each sensor costs \$150. The committee was tentatively interested in purchasing two, to be placed somewhere on the Brush Mountain Conservation Area and near the hiker's cabin. *Julia will determine if the sensors are battery-operated and what kind of protection from the elements they would require.*

6-7. Prioritizing Chapter 61 properties & question of if Northfield should acquire land for conservation- topic postponed until Joanne returns. Jerry mentioned that we would need to work closely with the Stewardship Committee. In the long-term plan that Jerry submitted to the finance committee, he allocated approximately \$40,000/ year for the right of first refusal on chapter 61 lands.

8. Other business: We decided to remove the extra \$200,000 from this year's budget which Jerry had allocated for the NMH/ TPL land since it is now covered by CPC funds. Leslie/ Mike. 5-0-0.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:28. Next meeting is April 19.

Julia Blyth

Robin K Conlay

Joanne M Lee

Mikal Ky

J. L. Wagener