

# Northfield Open Space Committee

February 23, 2021 - Zoom

## Draft minutes

**Present:** Julia Blyth, Robin Conley, Joanne McGee, Sue Space, Jenny Tufts, Jerry Wagener.

**Guests:** Bill Copeland, Melissa Gamache

*Action items are in italics.*

1. Guest comments: Bill Copeland passed on comments from Nick Fleck about possibility of old growth trees in Mill Brook wetland area and potential for conservation. Greater Northfield Watershed Association is initiating a stream study which will sample water in the Mill Brook wetland area in addition to East and West Wait Brook in West Northfield. Historic land use is important for the study.
2. OSRP debrief from forum: March 1 is the deadline for comments. Julia solicited letters of support from Conservation Commission, Selectboard, Planning Board and Historical Commission. Julia also needs names of attendees at OSRP public meetings. *She will send a list of dates to Joanne who will compile the list.* Sue expressed appreciation for all who worked so hard on the revised plan. We must take advantage of the FERC public comment period for First Light requests.
3. Solar siting: *Jenny and Sue will do more research on the bylaw issues for solar siting to assist us with some coordination with the Planning Board and Energy Committee. Jenny and Sue will track work down by FRCOG. Julia will follow work done by FRCOG Planning Board.* The Open Space Committee needs to be proactive working with the Northfield Planning Board.
4. Annual Report: After several word changes, the committee voted to approve the annual report. Jerry/Jenny 6-0.
5. Minutes: After several minor changes, the committee voted to approve the minutes of January 12, 2021, and February 10, 2021. Jenny/Sue 6-0.
6. Citizen Stewardship Award: Committee members discussed several possibilities. *Julia will post the announcement, link to criteria, and a list of past winners on Next Door.*
7. Mill Brook trail work; Julia met with the Community Preservation Committee which would like a letter from the Snow's that they are aware of the proposed work. The work will need a Notice of Intent submitted to the Conservation Committee. We want the permitting to be in place so work can start after the May town meeting. Turnaround time for application for NOI? *Robin said the Wetlands Protection Act is now in digital form; she will give us a link.*
8. Municipal vulnerability/Hazard Mitigation Plan: Two public feedback meetings will be held March 3 at 6 p.m. and March 17 at 10 a.m.

9. Reminders:

Mass. Open Space Conference will take place over four dates in March.

<https://massopenspaceconference.wordpress.com/>

MASSwoods webinar series (2nd Tuesday evenings-- recorded sessions available as well): <https://masswoods.org/webinars> .

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. Next meeting will be March 16, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee, Secretary