

Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes – April 20, 2021 – Via Zoom

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

Items in italics demand action prior to the next meeting.

1. Minutes: The minutes of March 16, 2021, were approved. Jenny/Jerry 6-0.
2. OSRP: The revised Open Space and Recreation Plan received provisional approval, but more information is needed in the history section for the 20th and 21st centuries. The committee suggested additions. *Julia will draft some paragraphs for the committee to review.*
3. Solar siting: Jenny and Sue reviewed their comprehensive solar siting document which refers to open space issues in siting. Questions included use of the document, timing, relationship to current solar bylaw, and procedures for interaction with Planning Board. It was felt that solar criteria should apply to all of Northfield, not merely to solar overlay area. The solar overlay bylaw was required by the state for “green community” acceptance.
Julia asked members to review the documents for a discussion next month and a future meeting with the Planning Board. Time is critical if discussions with the Planning Board lead to by law revision and acceptance at a fall town meeting.
4. Richardson property: Joanne updated the committee on the sale of the Richardson property at the top of Alexander Hill road. Mount Grace will be purchasing the property; Appalachian Mt. Club will continue to own the cabin, tent platforms, fire ring, and continue oversight of the New England National Scenic Trail. AMC is donating \$20,000 as a down payment. MG will organize a fund-raising effort once development staff finishes current events and activities. This purchase will ensure that the trailhead and view remain open to the public.
5. Mill Brook trail work: Mike Barry is doing the Notice of Intent (NOI) for us. Because of Conservation Commission postponement, we are not sure when it will be presented to the Con Com review. Robin announced that Arthur Davis would like to help.
6. Other trails: Robin explained directions to nature trail at PVRs. The trail begins beyond the farthest yellow post at the first baseball field. The unknown trail worker has installed a webcam at a “critter” home.
7. Member comments: Julia announced a pollinator workday at Mount Grace on earth Day April 22. Joanne urged everyone to attend the town meeting May 4 to support the two articles on the Schell Bridge project. Julia is distributing the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan. No deadline yet for FERC comments on the First Light project.
8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Next meeting is Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7 p.m.
Julia/Sue 6 - 0

Respectfully submitted, Joanne McGee, Secretary