

Northfield Open Space Minutes
July 20, 2021

Meeting in Library parking lot before a Mill Brook walk

Present: Julia Blyth, Joanne McGee, Sue Space, and Jenny Tufts

Absent: Robin Conley, Jerry Wagener

Items in italics require action before the next meeting.

1. Minutes: The June 15, 2021, minutes were approved. Julia/Jenny 4-0.
2. Reappointments: The Open Space Committee appoints two people to the SAC and two to the CPC.

Robin was reappointed to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC).

Joanne was reappointed to the Stewardship Advisory Committee (SAC).

Sue Space was appointed to the Stewardship Advisory Committee or the CPC.

Julia will ask Bob Pasteris if he wishes to be reappointed to the SAC. She was also check with Rob Hendry and Arthur Davis about potential slots on the SAC.

After Julia talks with Andrew Vernon of the SAC about appointments and a notice in Next Door, she will contact Joanne.

3. First light/FERC: *Jenny is waiting for a letter draft from Andrea Donlon of the Ct River Conservancy and will prepare a letter for the Open Space Committee. Historical Commission and Selectboard are also preparing letters. Jenny will send our bullet points to Selectboard. Our principal bullet points are the following:*
 - A swimming pool at Northfield Mountain rec Center
 - Paddle access for older people at Bennett Brook Wildlife Management area
 - Increased trail access to river
 - Improved ADA access to NM Rec Center facilities
 - Reemphasis on skiing with ski rental and lower fees
 - Ability to intervene periodically in the license to allow both for monitoring agreements and for additional recreational opportunities.
4. Mill Brook Wetland trail project: Still no Order of Conditions from Conservation commission. The McGowan snowmobile bridge was destroyed in recent flooding.

5. DCR kiosk issue: Dept of Conservation and Recreation accidentally replaced Jerry's kiosk with a DCR kiosk on Birnam Rd. Amanda was very apologetic and said that Jerry's kiosk would be used at the School St. entrance. His second kiosk would be returned.
6. Solar bylaw reform: No action from the Planning Board.
7. Important tidbits:

August 7 – Big gathering at Richardson Cabin on NET to celebrate Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust's purchase of the property from Barb and Sam Richardson and initiate the fund-raising phase. Appalachian Mt. Club will join with MG for the celebration and provide hiking leaders from the Gulf Road trail head to the cabin. Others can drive if the road is repaired. Town leaders will be invited.

East/West Rail Study initiated by Franklin Regional Council of Governments to determine feasibility of rail link along Rt. 2 corridor.
8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. Julia set out to wade through the Mill brook trails and assess flood damage. The next meeting will be August 17 at 9:30 am at the library parking lot.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee, Secretary