

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE  
MEETING AUGUST 24, 2021  
DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Julia Blyth, Chair; Jerry Wagener, Joanne McGee, Jenny Tufts, Robin Conley

Absent: Susan Space

Meeting was held in the library's outdoor tent. Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM.

Appointments were made to other committees. Julia nominated Bob Pasteris and Joanne McGee to continue to represent OSC on the **Stewardship Committee**, and Susan Space to represent OSC on the **Community Preservation Committee**. Motion seconded by Joanne and carried 5-0 to approve the appointments.

Public comments are being accepted regarding **FirstLight relicensing** until August 31. Julia and Jenny continue to work on issues. Bee Jacques is willing to be Northfield's representative to the negotiations and hearings.

**State Forestry Management** presented a cutting proposal on 165 acres located near Birnham Road and School Street recently. They are aware of the trail system in that area. The proposal includes cutting variable density for different aged trees; a carbon sequestering study; a UMass demonstration possibility; and a preference to sell to local mills. OSC discussed holding a public meeting on this project, and a debate format was considered. Joanne suggested that Keith DiNardo of DCR who is managing the project and/or Paul Catanzaro from UMass Extension to publicly speak about the project and/or forestry in general. Jenny suggested that an opposing speaker(s) be given public speaking time.

Plans for the **Mill Brook Trail renovations** were discussed. The much-awaited Order of Conditions has been received from the Conservation Commission, Tommy Dock materials are ordered and to be delivered to Julia's home, and lumber has been ordered from Leader Home Center. There was much discussion of construction. Julia shared there is a growing list of volunteers. The first work dates are scheduled for Sun. and Mon., Sept. 5-6 from 9:30 AM to 3 PM. We planned lunch, snacks and drinks to be provided. Julia will post an announcement on Next Door. Motion made (Jenny/Joanne) and carried to spend up to \$250 for food and beverages.

Joanne shared that **Alderbrook Pond** is filling up slowly.

Susan O'Conner has invited Julia to speak to the Energy Committee regarding **solar planning**.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Minutes by Robin Conley