

Northfield Open Space Committee

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Town Hall – 7 p.m.

**Present:** Robin Conley, Matt Diluzio, Joanne McGee

**Absent:** Julia Blyth, Sue Space

**Guests:** Will Chuch

1. Agenda: As it stands
2. Minutes: The February 2, 2023, minutes were approved with a few corrections. Robin/Matt. The March 16, 2023, minutes were approved with one correction. Robin/Matt.
3. Will Chuch, a teacher from Northfield Mount Hermon School, is interested in becoming a member of the Open Space Committee. He has submitted the citizen interest form; Matt will talk with Sandra, the town secretary.
4. Calvin Swan: Joanne reported that she and two members of the Historical Commission will be meeting Saturday with Eric Johnson, an anthropology professor from UMASS, at the Calvin Swan homestead. The Historical Commission is finalizing wording for the interpretive sign to be installed at the cellar holes.
5. Mill Brook: Annie Chappell will lead the 350<sup>th</sup> walk on May 7. Matt cleared some large trees and debris from the trail.
6. Dogwood plants: Robin has about nine native dogwoods which need to be planted after two years in pots. Joanne will ask Tessa about using them at Alderbrook. They also would be suitable for Northfield Elementary School or Pioneer Valley High School.
7. Open Space meeting dates: After some discussion about changing the date, it was decided to meet May 18.
8. Member comments: Joanne described the satellite monitoring system now being used by Mount Grace. Each year a portion of its properties will be monitored remotely. Matt will resume his hikes either on April 29 or 30. Robin has about 38 invasive brochures remaining from the second case. Will is able to print out large batches of material. Joanne will send him the 2021 Open Space Plan.
9. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. At the next meeting we will check in on the 7-year action steps from the Open Space Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee, Secretary

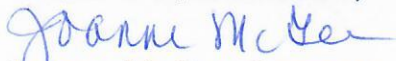


the Snow's. The unused kiosk at the Birnam Rd parking for the state forest will be moved to the Dickinson Rd. curve at the Mill Brook trail entrances.

6. 350<sup>th</sup> observance walks: Mary King would like a specific schedule with dates, times, days of the week, etc. The walks will be Mill Brook, Town Forest/Brush Mt, Alderbrook and King Philips Hill, to be conducted by Rick Holschuh on a Sunday morning. Jenny commented that the signs at King Philip's Hill need to be replaced. The committee also discussed producing a written history of these walks.
7. Action Plan items: Members must review the action plan items from the 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan for the next meeting.
  - Reports: Robin reported that the open space funds in the CPA chest amount to \$7,612 (+or-). There is \$122,345 in the undesignated account. Robin also said the Conservation Commission has asked that First light remove the bittersweet from two parcels near King Philips Hill and the Mitchell Gravel Pit. Thanks to Matt Diluzio for leading the foraging and walking tours on Saturday mornings.

Next Meeting is Thursday, July 7, 2022, at 7:30 (?).

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joanne McGee, Secretary

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