

Northfield Open Space Committee

November 18, 2021

Via Zoom

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

Guest: Patter Field

1. Minutes: The committee approved the minutes of October 5, 2021. Jenny/Robin 4 – 0.
2. Grant program for landowners: Grants are available to implement “neighborhood-based outreach” to landowners on conservation-based estate planning, including land protection options. This project for forested areas aims to use social networks to help inform landowner decisions about the future of their land. Committee members are encouraged to think about possible locations here in Northfield. See the attached file.
3. Planning the Future of your land: This webinar series from MassWoods.org helps explain land conservation issues and has been very popular with landowners and conservation people. See the attached file.
4. Mill Brook trail updates:
Projects in the thinking stage: Julia talked with Howard Hastings about steps and with Jerry about a potential railing on the marsh bridge. Possibilities abound, including pipe configurations. Not everyone felt a railing was necessary. Joanne will work on trail names for Jerry.
Patter inquired about the replacing the McGowan bridge which was washed out in the flood this past summer. Because the land is owned by the Snow family, there are difficulties with financing. The committee agreed that a location near the library pond would be ideal for a new bridge across the wetland.
Patter also remarked on the Jungle Trail with two good viewpoints.
5. Northfield 350th Observance: Mary King, chair of the historical/outdoors section of the 350th committee, will come to the Dec. Open Space Committee meeting to talk about planning hikes on historical trails such as King Philips Hill, Alderbrook, Calvin Swan area, and Mill brook wetlands. Jenny suggested that we plan a spring event 2022 to celebrate our work in the wetlands and not wait until 2023.
6. Solar bylaw revision: No word from the Planning Board. At the recent PB hearing about land regulations Julia questioned a possible conflict with the current zoning regulations.
7. Next meeting: The next meeting will be Thursday, December 9, 2021, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. NOTE change of date to reduce conflict with Community Preservation meeting.
8. Respectfully submitted.

Joanne McGee, Secretary