

# Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes - April 16, 2014

Town Hall – Planning Board Room

*Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.*

Present: Mike Barry, Joanne McGee, Sue Ross, Jenny Tufts, Jerry Wagener, Chair.

Absent: Kate Rossiter

Guest: Clem Clay, Trust for Public Land

The meeting opened at 7:39.

1. Adoption of agenda: No changes

2. Approval of minutes: The minutes of March 18, 2014, were approved. Mike/Jenny 5-0

3. Member comments:

**Jerry:** a) Finance Committee approved the requested budget of \$1400. b) The Select Board will consider the letter drafted by the Open Space Committee concerning the proposed pipeline intruding on land with conservation restrictions. c) Jerry has received positive comments and suggestions from residents about the trail web site. *Jerry will contact Deb Kern about a trail brochure.* d) Jerry displayed pictures of small “kiosks” attached to trees used by Rattlesnake Gutter Trust.

**Mike:** a) Sent the DCR trail maps to members and to Sam Richardson. b) Nick Fleck talked with Selectboard about the Town Forest Stewardship Subcommittee.

**Jenny:** a) The Town Forest conservation restriction annual monitoring will be April 27. b) Jenny and friends cleaned up King Phillip’s Hill and moved the picnic table. c) Jenny attended the pipeline meeting Monday night and displayed maps available on the I-Neighbors website in the ‘file’ section. The attendees will present a non-binding resolution opposing the pipeline at the Town Meeting.

**Joanne:** Manchester MA is bonding playground and ball fields improvements using CPA money, if the town approves increasing the CPA percentage to 3%.

4. Ad Hoc community park committee: Since Joe Stacy and Sue Handren are not here, the committee deferred discussion and decisions until the next meeting. The deadline for submitting warrant articles is past, but the Selectboard can form a committee.

5. Trust for Public Land arrangement with NMH: Clem Clay described the option to purchase the NMH forestland, about 1650 acres of unfragmented woods. The purchase of the forest includes the East Northfield Water Company land, reservoir and facilities. TPL, now in its period of due diligence, has hired Weston Sampson, an engineering firm with experience in environmental and infrastructure work, to examine the East Northfield Water Company. TPL will be investigating regulatory aspects, possible future structure, and potential managers/owners, including the possibility of merging with Northfield Water District.. The outcome of the water supply issue will affect the use of the campus and economic development in Northfield. Clem also described possible funding sources for the forestland, including Department of Conservation, Recreation and a Landscape Partnership Grant, and

Forest Legacy. Clay hopes that the committee members will be aware of community interest and feedback. He will return to talk with the Open Space Committee at the June 17 meeting.

6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm. The next meeting will be May 20, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee, Secretary