

**Northfield Open Space Committee**  
Minutes, Nov. 18, 2014  
Town Hall – Planning Board Room

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

Present: Mike Barry, Julia Blyth, Joanne McGee, Jenny Tufts, Jerry Wagener, Chair.

Absent: Bob Hall, Sue Handren, Sue Ross, Kate Rossiter (LOA), Joe Stacy

The meeting opened at 7:30.

1. **Adoption of agenda:** No action

2. **Approval of minutes:** The October 21, 2014, minutes were not available for viewing.

3. **Member comments:**

Jerry – (1) Town clerk Dan Campbell recommends no times on the agenda because the meeting would then be bound by those times. An item can't start until the scheduled time in case someone wants to come for that item. 2. Greater Northfield Watershed Assoc. sent a letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals about the Willey Auto Repair on East Street reminding the ZBA that the auto shop is within the drinking water watershed. 3. The Finance Committee requests the FY 2016 budget figures by 1/5/2015.

Jenny (1) attended the Willey ZBA hearing to express concern about ground water contamination if the permit conditions are not being met. The issue is complicated by an expired permit and not complying with special conditions. Neighbors have reported that the building inspector's cease and desist order has not been effective. Jenny is following the issue. (2) Jenny distributed the Community Preservation Plan to Open Space members. The plan is a guide to submission of projects. At the public forum last Thursday the Community Preservation Committee discussed future ideas and projects. There was strong agreement that the CPA needed to be returned to the 3% level.

Julia – Julia attended the pipeline meeting in Fitchberg. The 425 people in attendance included 11 or 12 from Northfield and people from four different states. Among discussions were comments about alternative routes, artificial pricing of gas and citizen involvement with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. At a Dec 2 meeting at the library interested people will consider approaching the Board of Health.

Mike – Mike handed out flyers about Alderbrook Meadow Sanctuary at the Town Hall on election day.

Joanne – Joanne attended the Massachusetts Trails Conference in Leominster. The theme of the conference was trail accessibility with the keynote speaker, Janet Zeller from United States Forest Service.

4. **TPL option on NMH land** – update: Chris LaPointe told Jerry that there may be a funding gap that the town may need to fill. TPL is waiting for news about the Landscape Partnership Grant. There is no news on the East Northfield Water Company.

5. **Community Park update** – Julia reports that the RFP is not done yet. The next meeting is on Jan. 5. Julia reviewed activities to be included in the park.
  
6. **Ames Conservation Restriction**: The motion, as advised by the attorney, for the Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> town meeting is quite complicated and long. Jerry and Joanne can not make the motion or even speak to the motion because of conflict of interest as both are involved with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust which is working with the Ames.
  
7. **Trails brochure and handouts**: Jerry thanked committee members for their comments and help with the brochure. He is ready to start installing the kiosks when the weather improves.
  
8. **2015 MA Open Space Conference**: Discussion postponed.
  
9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting will be December 16, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee  
Secretary