

Minutes open space committee space May 19, 2015

Meeting began at 7:32 p.m. Present Robert Hall, Leslie Powers, Joanne McGee, Julia Blyth, Jenny Tufts, Mike Barry

Special guest JT Horn all of TPL (JT will designate him)

**Item 1:** adoption of agenda. Adopted

**Item 2:** JT here to update us on the TPL options regarding the and NMH property

JT was here last month. See minutes for 4/21/15 for background

He is the new senior project manager. He was asked to come down to provide continuity for the NMH/DCR/TPL project

JT wants to assure us that there is movement. He worked out with NMH board. Good chance that the contract be extended. This is great and gives everyone a chance to brief

Core funding for the project is the state. Fiscal year ends June 2015. He is trying to make sure the money will still be there in the 2016 budget cannot guarantee it. However DCR really wants the project to succeed. He got a contract from EEA/DCR with 2016 date. This is very promising

Ongoing issue is funding from the town. He has real concerns about the piece of land being looked at for Community Park. Town will not accept the property with the contamination issues. However NMH will not exclude the dumpsite from the deal.

J Tufts noted that the CPC financing is dependent on getting that parcel.

JT does not see a solution between the town and NMH. He believes there is a need to separate the river piece and the forest piece. He really wants to focus on the 1600 acres we do have agreement on. The grant for project is from a landscape partnership:

Price: 2 million in total. 1.1 million Came from a L.A.N.D. Partnership Grant; 900,000 came from DCF capital budget. TPL needs Northfield to get as much of the CPA money as possible.

J Tufts Pointed out CPC will need to meet again and see what they're willing to do. CPC is getting information from the town to hold on to the CPA money for a community park.

J Blyth reported that the Community Park committee is split. Some are very concerned about the potential pollution

JT pointed out that when the 1600 acres and the water project were on the table, the biggest issue seem to be dealing with the water company. Now there was a viable offer for the East Northfield water company.

J Tufts noted that the TPL and CPC both need to go back to the drawing board.

JT explained that he is still working out ownership parameters around East Northfield Water company. This needs to be worked out between DCR, DEP, DPU, NMH, and the town. His next big project is what to do with the property around the reservoir. No one has volunteered to take the dam and the reservoir. In all likelihood the water company will buy the dam and the reservoir. Town will get 250 to 200 -280 acres around the reservoir. Most of this is watershed area. The state would hold on withhold a conservation restriction.

DPU has two zones: zone A= 400 feet around the reservoir zone

Zone B = two 280 acres

Zone A would go with the utility

Zone B would go to the Town with a lease back to the Company.

JT stressed he needs to keep working with all the parties. He will come back when he has even more information

DEP wants to see some light timber harvest; they want to see certain level of active management. A lease back to the water company might help the town get rid of management responsibilities

Joanne Magee noted the lease back has the potential to allow the town to collect some of the profits.

JT right now by is getting the reservoir +100 foot strip. He needs to go back to the buyer and get some adjustments to the bid and the offer.

Next up is the surveying all the land. According to Joanne McGee and JT, NMH is taking over the surveying. And NMH has not delivered a survey. JT says getting the survey done is going to be very expensive. This is the biggest problem with getting the contract extended

Surveying has to start from scratch

Bob Hall wondered whether it was possible to do an aerial survey

JT explained that they needed an actual survey to be filed that the registry of deeds. This is a huge issue. There are 68 separate parcels that make up the 16 acres.

Joanne McGee we should all stay positive. Looks like we have a buyer for the water company and it looks like the contact will be extended.

JT reminded us that this will be one of the largest projects of its kind in the state.

Jenny Tufts reminded JT that the CPA committee does not meet regularly so would have to be set up.

JT is wondering if setting up a joint committee with the CPA and the Select board would make some sense. We also need to figure out the \$200,000 funding gap.

Julia B. wondered if there was a possibility of getting any other grant money

Jenny Tufts wondered if TLP has more ideas for getting more grant money

Joanne McGee mentioned that if we lose the state money we might be able to go for a federal grant under a forest legacy grant.

Mike Barry wondered if the ownership structure would be different.

JT said even if with a forest legacy grant it can be figured out.

### **Items 3, 4 and 5 were deferred**

**Item 6.** Greater Northfield Watershed Association approved \$1, 000 towards Ames property CR. Need is \$10,000.

### **Item 7:** Pipeline update

Julia: FERC-Kinder Morgan was criticized and told it needed to fix its scoping documents. This will now delay further movement of the project to late July/August.

Joanne McGee saw an article on the Gazette talking about the pipeline. She found it very disturbing.

Julia thinks the gist of the UMass study was that the route could have been worse.

### **Item 8:** Craig Mountain

Joanne McGee has been talking with Josh Surette of AMC. The family that owns the top of Crag Mountain close to because misuse of the trail. Joshua Surette and Joanne McGee met with the Norwood family. They want to sell their portion of Craig Mountain. National Park Service has money.

But there is a law that the federal government cannot own land. So the money can be sent by New England National Scenic Trail Association

Joanne McGee believes this information should get to the trail people, Sam and Barb Richardson

### **Item 9.** Budget needs.

Joanne McGee pointed out that we need more trail brochures and maps. Mr. Harding is making the wood signs on the trails. They are beautiful. Joanne McGee thinks the rest of any money in our budget should be used for brochures.

### **Item 10:** Other business

Jenny thinks work has started on the King Philip parking lot.

Jenny reminded everyone of the Greater Northfield Watershed event on June 12 at the golf club at 5:30. Sue Roth and Beth Bazler will be leading the hike. There will be live music food and a cash bar.

Julia Blyth is doing a Senior Center talk about what the Open Space Committee does.

Joanne McGee suggested she talk about the Mill Brook trail and bring brochures.

Julia B. Greater Northfield Watershed is pledging \$1,000 to be matched by other contributions by town of Northfield

We then had a general discussion whether or not the Open Space Committee can join Plan Northeast?

The minutes of April 21, 2015 were approved.

Leslie Powers moved to approve them, Jenny Tufts second; minutes accepted

Adjourned at 9:03 PM