

Northfield Open Space Committee

Tuesday, June 27, 2023 – Town Hall

Present: Julia Blyth (telephone), Robin Conley, Matt Diluzio, Sarah Kerns (8:30), Joanne McGee, Sue Space

Guests: Bob Perlman, Mallory Sullivan, Northfield Economic Development Team

Matt called the meeting to order at 7:30.

1. Agenda was approved.
2. Minutes: The committee approved the minutes of April 20, 2023.
3. Sue Space was approved as Open Space representative to Community Preservation Committee.
4. Matt introduced Bob Perlman who is interested in becoming a member of the Open Space Committee. Bob's career as a physical therapist spans several locations. He was also a science teacher for many years at Turners Falls High School and taught at GCC.
5. Mill Brook land grant: Mallory discussed the possibility of the town acquiring the remaining Mill Brook parcel with a LAND grant from Department of Conservation and Recreation. The grant would cover 58% of the land cost. An appraisal is needed. Grant deadline for 2023 is July 13. Robin expressed concern about the pervasive glossy buckthorn and felt that we should not acquire land with such a stewardship problem. Robin also felt that the Conservation Commission and a wetlands biologist should be consulted and that we should wait a year. Others on the committee felt that the invasives could be dealt with later with help from grants. The committee voted 4 -1 to support the application of the LAND grant. Joanne will ask Mount Grace for a map of Mill Brook which might show Biomap areas and recommended that Mallory look at the Mill Brook Conservation Plan in the Open Space files in the Land Room.
6. Northfield Elementary School outdoor education project: Joanne reported on John Lepore's plan to convert the 7 acres behind the fields at NES into an outdoor education venue.
7. Invasives: Robin is resigning from the Open Space Committee as of July 30 when she will move to Keene. She brought in the remaining invasive booklets and encouraged OS and Con Com to hold additional workshops. Sarah Kerns is replacing Robin on the OS committee and will represent the Con Com.
8. Town parcels on warrant: A question on the warrant for the June 28 town meeting moves several tax parcels to the control of the Selectboard which will then decide the future. Sarah understands our concern that conservation land should not be overlooked.
9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:45. No date for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne McGee, Secretary

Joanne McGee

MD