

Stewardship Advisory Committee

December 14, 2017

Present: Bob Pasteris, Andrew Vernon, Jerry Wagener, Joanne McGee, Chair Katherine Johnson

Absent: Charlie Blanker, Nick Fleck

Convened 7:10 pm

1. The November 2, 2017, minutes were reviewed and approved with discussed edits. Jerry/Bob.
Approved 5-0

2. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was discussed. Although Nick was not present at this meeting, he had prepared an alternate document which is a proposed agreement that the Conservation Commission would consult with the Historical Commission on matters that could be impacted by the MoU signed between the Historical Commission and the coalition of Narragansett, Mashantucket Pequot, Wampanoag of Gay Hed, and Mohegan tribes. We made some suggested edits. They were approved pending review including Nick, Katherine/Joanne, approved 5-0. Suggested revision is as follows:

"The Conservation Commission of the Town of Northfield agrees that before beginning any action that might disturb indigenous ceremonial stone landscapes on town-owned conservation properties, it will consult with the Historic Commission in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding and the Memoranda of Agreement that the Historic Commission has signed with a consortium of the Narragansett, Mashantucket Pequot, Wampanoag of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and Mohegan Tribes. The purpose of this agreement is the protection of indigenous cultural heritage within the landscape.

Approved By

Conservation Commission Chair _____ Date _____

Historic Commission Chair _____ Date _____"

3. We discussed the earlier proposal to ban metal detecting on the King Philip Hill property. We are aware of a possible investigation of the site by the team studying the Great Falls Fight, and decided to ask if the recent activity observed there had been their team. Joanne will contact them.

4. We decided to proceed with writing an RFP/solicitation for estimates for forestry services on the thinning project in the Town Forest. Katherine will meet with Willie Morales to help write this properly. Bob would like to come if possible also.

5. Proposal for designating other areas of the Town Forest was tabled at this meeting except for a brief discussion about what this entails. Jerry will ask Bill Copeland, owner of a parcel in West Northfield that recently was put into Forever Wild status, what this may mean, exactly. Bob may try to invite a restoration ecologist to speak to us also about these designations.

6. Trail Report – Town Forest ok, at least before the snow came. Brush Mountain and King Philip's Hill not visited.

7. Joanne announced for the sub-committee's information that the Ames Accessible Trail is scheduled to be dedicated on June 2nd.

8. Talk of the Towns is a meeting held in April where town groups can speak with each other and get to know the work and interests of other groups in town. We should attend once a date is settled.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Katherine Johnson