



# TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Open Space Committee

Town Hall Offices • 63 Main Street • Northborough, MA 01532 • 508-393-5019 • 508-393-6996 Fax

## Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes September 20, 2018

Approved  
11/26/18

Selectmen's Meeting Room  
Town Hall, 63 Main Street

**Members Present:** John Campbell (Chairman), Leslie Harrison, Dan Clark, Ashley Davies, Paul Tagliaferri, Amy Poretsky

**Members Absent:** Greg Young, David Putnam, Tim Kaelin

**Others Present:** Kathy Joubert (Town Planner), Mia McDonald (Conservation Agent), Al & Lorraine Yellick of 125 Rice Ave, Julianne Hirsh of 19 Smith Road, see attached Sign-In Sheet.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

### Informal Discussion: 125 Rice Avenue

Ms. Joubert presented a map showing 125 Rice Ave as an approximately 18 acre parcel located adjacent to existing town-owned conservation land. Ms. Joubert also presented a plan previously submitted by Mr. Yellick, the owner, showing an approximately 2-acre parcel containing the existing single family house subdivided from the remaining 16 acres. She stated that the owner must speak with the Open Space Committee and the Conservation Commission to determine if there is interest from the Town in acquiring the property, then an appraisal can be sought.

Mr. & Mrs. Yellick arrived and discussed various possibilities for the land, including solar, cell tower, and/or sale to the Town for conservation purposes. Chairman Campbell stated that the interest of the Open Space Committee would be for conservation purposes only.

The Committee discussed the parcel, zoning and the process to move forward with the acquisition. Ms. Harrison made a motion to support the exploration of the purchase of the property and Mr. Clark seconded; all voted in favor.

An informal discussion shall be placed on the 9/24/18 agenda of the Conservation Commission. A vote to support the exploration of the purchase of the property may be placed on the 10/15/18 agenda of the Conservation Commission pending the 9/24/18 discussion.

### Project Updates

- Town Common – Consultants Weston & Sampson presented two possible designs at the first public meeting held on 9/17/18. The designs shall be presented to the Board of Selectmen at their 10/15/18 meeting, then a second public meeting shall be scheduled. The Department of Public Works estimates the project shall be completed around October 2019.
- White Cliffs – Of the applicants, four design firms were selected on September 19 to proceed to the interview stage.

- 120 Maynard Street – Ms. Davies and Ms. Harrison met with the landowners, who stated that they are currently farming the property and are interested in selling to the Town in future. A Forest Management Plan was recently submitted to the Conservation Commission for comment.
- Potential rail trail on former Boston-Worcester Air Line Trolley rail bed with connections to Wachusett Aqueduct trail – Member of the Westborough Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Don Burns, is actively working with land protection groups in Westborough on the purchase of land and easements.
- Potential development of trail on Aqueduct Bridge – The Trails Committee is planning is planning to submit an application for Community Preservation funds for design for access over the aqueduct bridge.
- Boroughs Trail update – Town representatives from Southborough, Westborough, Marlborough and Northborough are actively working on the creation of a 31-mile loop trail that runs through all four towns. The group is currently finalizing the maps and working on signage.
- Master Plan – The second public forum is scheduled for 10/4/18 at the high school.
- Open Space and Recreation Plan – The plan is currently expired. The update shall be completed in-house with assistance from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

### **Old/New Business**

- Ms. Davies asked about approaching the owners of the Juniper Hill Golf Course about the future of the land. Ms. Joubert stated that she would discuss the land with the owner when he next came into the Planning Office.
- Establish meeting schedule for 2018-2019 – The members and staff discussed availability and chose to move the meetings from the second Monday to the fourth Monday of the month, with meetings held every other month unless needed more often. The next scheduled meeting would be Monday, October 22.
- Minutes discussion – Minutes for the meetings shall be taken. Staff is trying to complete minutes for meetings for the past two years.

Adjourn

Cc    Town Clerk  
       Town Administrator  
       Conservation Commission  
       Town Engineer  
       Recreation Director  
       DPW Director