



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Open Space Committee

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Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes July 22, 2019

Approved
10/28/2019

Members Present: John Campbell, Chairman; Paul Tagliaferri, Leslie Harrison, Amy Poretsky, Ashley Davies.

Others Present: Mia McDonald, Conservation Agent

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:11pm.

Consideration of Minutes

- L. Harrison made a motion, P. Tagliaferri seconded and all voted in favor to approve the minutes for the March 25, 2019 meeting.
- P. Tagliaferri made a motion, A. Poretsky seconded and all voted in favor to approve the minutes for the May 20, 2019 meeting.

Administration items:

- A. Poretsky will be leaving the Open Space Committee as the Planning Board representative to join the Earth Removal Board. She will be replaced by Planning Board Member Anthony Ziton at the next meeting. The Chairman and the Committee thanked her for her service.
- Chairman Campbell asked for the next meeting to be moved from September 23 to September 30. The Committee discussed and agreed to ask the consultants from CMRPC to attend on September 30.

Project Updates:

- Town Common: Construction is underway. Some project changes have occurred to accommodate the project budget. A. Poretsky has been selling memorial bricks to raise funds for the project. The project scope was changed by the Town Common Committee to create a larger memorial.
- Yellick Conservation Area/DCR bridge replacement Trails Committee project: The Trails Committee submitted an application to the Partnership Matching Funds Program to replace the pedestrian bridge at the Yellick Conservation Area/Tyler Flood Control Facility on Hudson Street. A secondary project was also applied for a fenced dog park area in the existing field. DCR has confirmed receipt of the application and has requested information on previous public hearings on dog park exploration in the Town of Northborough.
- Aqueduct Bridge – Staff has formally requested the utility explore the cost associated with relocation of utilities on the bridge.
- Boroughs Loop Trail
 - Trails are being marked with Boroughs Loop Trail logo

- Grand opening of the loop trail scheduled for October 4th with State dignitaries and October 5th for guided trail walks. Both events will occur in Northborough at Algonquin Regional High School at the trailhead for the Stirrup Brook Trail
- Website for the trail is <https://www.stvweb.org/BLT>
- Volunteers needed to assist with both dates
- Open Space and Recreation Plan
 - Joint meeting to kick-off public process has been scheduled for September 30 and will include Open Space Committee, Recreation Committee, Conservation Commission, and Trails Committee
 - Subsequent meetings for the plan update shall be at the OSC meetings on the 4th Mondays of the month.
 - Chairman Campbell and A. Poretsky asked staff to encourage representatives from other boards to attend the plan update kickoff meeting.
- Oberg Land off Lincoln St/Auger Ave for sale
 - 0 Lincoln Street (3 parcels: Map 62, Parcel 4, 7 and 8), 26 Auger Ave (Map 61, Parcel 11) and 0 Auger Ave (Map 61, Parcel 15)
 - Public input: Carolyn Jordan of 55 Cherry Street, Chris Woodcock of 18 Increase Ward Drive stated there are existing private trails on that parcels and in that area.
 - Paul & Mary Desautel asked about the Open Space Committee's responsibilities and stated concern about the vernal pools and wildlife on the parcels. Staff responded that there are no certified vernal pools on those parcels, but there are on adjacent parcels. Staff stated there is no priority or estimated protected habitat or wildlife on those parcels.
 - Corey Woodcock stated the neighbors are very interested in the outcome of the parcels. Staff asked all the neighbors to consider allowing formal, written trail easements across their property in the event that the parcels are considered for purchase. Connectivity would increase their value to the town.
 - The Committee discussed and determined they would be interested in the purchase of all 5 parcels together. A. Poretsky made a motion, L. Harrison seconded and all voted in favor of soliciting costs for an appraisal of all five parcels together.
- 302 Church Street: Norm Corbin of the Historical District Commission may follow up with the owner.
- 615 Howard Street
 - Keith Bennet, owner, present.
 - Appraisal is estimated to be complete in 1-2 weeks.
- Next Meeting: September 30, 2019

P. Tagliaferri made a motion, A. Poretsky seconded and all voted in favor of adjourning the meeting at 9:18pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mia McDonald
Conservation Agent