

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Meeting of April 23, 2018

Present: Brittni Stewart, Eliza Conde, Sheryl Tedford, Mark Hayes, Jon Cilley, Scott Haskins, Christina Beadle, Kevin Fife

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm

Town Administrator Glenn Smith reviewed background information concerning the formation of the committee and a general overview of newer elements of the parks/conservation land areas in Northfield.

Committee members discussed in general terms recreational uses of town parks and conservation areas.

Scott Haskins said that he would like to build on the success of the Highland Mountain Bike Park, moving in a direction of providing camping and bike trails as part of the recreation environment.

Jon Cilley confirmed that the school board is still actively considering closure of Union Sanborn School, which could eliminate the playground at that facility.

Eliza Conde noted that the town could offer opportunities for entire families by providing other opportunities offered in conjunction with mountain biking.

Mark Hayes noted the transformative effect mountain bike trail development has had on Burke, Vermont and said he thinks the opportunity exists for something similar in Northfield. This could boost the economy and provide recreational/outdoor opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Christina Beadle noted that development of a campground would help keep people from camping in conservation areas as they do now. Members generally expressed interest in the concept and agreed it needed to be explored further.

Committee members discussed obtaining public input by survey or public hearing and decided that they needed to become more familiar with park and conservation areas through site visits before taking that step.

Other topics of discussion included:

- Kayaking opportunities along the Winnepesaukee River
- Creating a band shell in Pines Park
- Using the open field at Surette Park, either for a dog park or municipal bike park
- The degree to which mountain biking is not compatible with other uses such as hiking or

horseback riding

- The use of Sandogardy Pond as a swimming area. Christina Beadle noted that the Conservation Commission is examining water quality issues at the pond.
- Parking problems at Knowles Pond

Committee members agreed to meet at the Pines Community Center on Sunday May 20th at 2pm to begin site visits to Northfield's open spaces.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm

Minutes Approved June 18, 2018