

Norfolk Conservation Commission meeting minutes April 20, 2016

Present: Molly Ackerly, John Anderson, Shelley Harms, Nash Pradhan,

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made to approve the February minutes, and was seconded; February minutes were unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

Secretary Martha Klein sent thank-you letters on behalf of the Commission to Adair Mali for her years of service on the Commission, and to Louise Davis and the former Colebrook/Norfolk garden club thanking them for the money for the signs.

Membership: All those present who have been re-appointed have been sworn in. A new alternate member is needed. The group discussed possible candidates.

Signs: Nash brought the new sign for the planting, which looks great but is quite tall. He will be able to cut it to the right size. Nash will consult with Sue Dyer about height and placement. Nash also brought a sample of the small label signs for the individual plants. The group agreed that the common name as well as the Latin name should be on the small signs.

Ornamental plant exchange will be held at the **Saturday, June 18** Farmers Market. Norfolk residents who remove an invasive such as burning bush can receive a free native shrub to replace it. Nash is obtaining the plants; Commission members other than Nash will be needed to staff the table at the market.

Buttermilk Falls: Discussion of removing burning bush and Norway maple at the Buttermilk Falls park on Route 44. Shelley has asked Sue Dyer about getting funding and/or help from the Town. The Commission agreed that this work should be done before the plant exchange, so that we can plant native shrubs after the burning bush plants are removed. We have an estimate from a private landscaper of \$1300 for the work. The first choice is to have it done by the Town Crew; second option is to see if a community group will fund all or part of it, and third choice is to spend our entire budget for this year and next on it. Shelley will schedule the work for a Friday before the June 18 plant exchange.

City Meadow: Molly reported that the new plans have been approved by DEEP and the Army Corps. The large grant that was awarded expires in September, and the recent approvals make it impossible for the work to be completed by then. Sue Dyer is writing a letter to the State to explain this and possibly obtain an extension. The City Meadow committee is continuing to move forward, and is exploring other means of raising the funds if the grant is no longer available. The revised plans are being submitted to the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning & Zoning Commission for their approval. It is anticipated that the matter will be on the agenda of the **Planning & Zoning Commission's meeting on May 10.**

Native plant gardening class: John has found a speaker, Mike Nadeau. Mike asked if there is an honorarium, and the Commission agreed to offer him \$50 to cover his travel expenses. If Mike

accepts, John will obtain a couple of possible dates from Mike, and will schedule him based on library availability. Shelley will help get the word out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Next meeting is **May 18**.

Minutes prepared by Shelley Harms, Chair.