

Conservation Commission

P.O. Box 552, Norfolk, Connecticut 06058

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Oct 19, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Having a quorum, chair John Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; in attendance were John Anderson, Martha Klein and Nash Pradhan.

Agenda:

Addition to agenda: discussion of outreach to new owner of Loon Meadow Farm.

Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 2016 meeting; the minutes were unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

Anderson distributed newsletters from the Connecticut Botanical Society, Farmington River Watershed Association, and Connecticut Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc (CACIWC), and a new invasive plant book from National Park Service. Renewals due for both CACIWC and CT Land Conservation Council; Anderson will renew both.

Budget:

There is \$2750 in budget now for the next fiscal year.

Public Comment: Suspended as there were no members of the public present.

Old Business:

Pradhan will install the small plant ID signs in Town Hall garden, and will deadhead plants. Town Hall garden maintenance discussed. Discussion of future planning regarding path from Town Hall to Library. Need to organize more volunteer work days on town owned property; necessary to recruit new volunteers. Need to plan a day at least 2 months in advance. Botelle School mowing: Anderson will have a discussion with Botelle School regarding inappropriate mowing schedule. An unknown party mowed at wrong time of year. A wetland area where Anderson removed a large amount of invasive plants last spring and preserved native emergent plants was dredged by an unknown party; it was not the Town Public Works Department. Mowing around Wood Creek Pond was done that harmed wet meadow plants like fringed gentian, orchids and shrubby potentilla. Anderson will follow up with DEEP. DPW is doing removal of dead and hazard trees. If there were enough funds in the budget, perhaps DPW can help remove some invasive trees.

Euonymus alatus (burning bush) is advancing in Wood Creek Park.

What is disposition of Rutledge/O'Malley land?

New Business:

Brief review of CT Invasive Plant Symposium attended by Anderson and Pradhan.

Upcoming meetings of interest: Regional Conservation Plan (RCP) in New Hampshire; Anderson will attend. Connecticut Botanical Society meeting is at Sessions Woods in November. Anderson attending; potluck event, no need to pre-register, just bring food.

NCC to reach out to new owner of Loon Meadow, who has interest in using property for conservation purposes.

There is a new APP for locating invasive plants. www.outsmartinvasives.com. Need to survey invasive plants in town. This will require a group of volunteers to start locating invasive plants on map and then to remove invasives on property. Running survey in Norfolk Now monthly.

Action Item: NCC begin town of Norfolk Invasive plant inventory and removal project; first inventory, do education and outreach, demonstrate use of APP, then removal.

Plant exchange- may need to request certain amount of invasive plants to be pulled to make the plant exchange more competitive. Need to create incentive for people to remove invasive plants. Educational programs about invasives should include info about native plant exchange.

Meeting Schedule for 2017 NCC meetings: continue third Wednesday of month, through Jan 2018 (town needs schedule by Dec. 2016). Jan 2017 to Jan 2018. Klein to make schedule and send to town.

By Dec. or Jan., NCC will complete Evaluation of NCC 2016 activities. Anderson distributed evaluation sheet of activities for 2016. Need to plan activities for 2017: educational presentations, invasive plant inventory (Map An App), native plant exchange.

Should NCC create suggested guidelines for new parking areas (permeability), water gardens, water conservation, invasive plants, etc.? Ask for input from P&Z, Wetlands, etc.

Need to recruit an alternate and more members to NCC, for future leadership on commission.

Conservation value of town owned property/conservation value of private lands in town?

Action item: Anderson, Pradhan, and Klein will meet in town center and begin invasive plant inventory on City Meadow, Town Green, and path from library to Town Hall.

Consider adding FaceBook stories about invasives and people who are stopping mowing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Minutes prepared by Martha Klein, secretary