

Conservation Commission

P.O. Box 552, Norfolk, Connecticut 06058

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
November 16, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Having a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Conservation Commission Chairman and member John Anderson; also in attendance were Molly Ackerly, Shelley Harms, and Martha Klein.

Harms moved and Klein seconded to approve October minutes; by unanimous vote, the October minutes are approved.

Correspondence: The commission received a request from the Inland Wetland commission for the NCC to comment on City Meadow Project.

Klein will contact webmaster Fanette to get access to CC email account.

Harms received email from Tom Zetterstrom regarding Japanese Knotweed infestation on Mountain Rd, and if NCC can do anything about it. Anderson will follow up.

Budget and Expenses: Town paid dues to CACIWIC of \$60 and \$100 to CLCC. Anderson and Pradhan will be reimbursed for CACIWIC meeting which they attended.

Public Comment Period: suspended as no members of public are present.

Old Business:

Botelle School wet meadow: meadow was mowed at wrong time of year (summer). Leo Colwell reports that Sean Muslin who used to work for town and does contract work, decided to mow wet meadow on his own and then billed the town, who paid him, despite being mowed at wrong time of year. Anderson will follow up with John Allyn who should speak with Sean Muslin. No November mowing this year, and no mowing until next fall should be considered. Should have a Native Wetland/Meadow preservation area/NO MOWING sign. Need to have improved communication regarding conservation work on town properties.

Wood Creek Pond Flood Control Area- Anderson to follow up with DEEP, who mowed in August.

Invasive plant removal project: need to continue work at Buttermilk Falls; numerous Norway maple seedlings sprouting. Harms has a chain saw. Date of next workday is Dec. 15 at 1pm.

Invasive plant inventory: Anderson walked city meadow and began inventory of invasive plants. Norway maple is at least 50% of forested area; also porcelain berry, Autumn olive, and honeysuckle noted. Mapping of invasive plants- Wood Creek has Japanese barberry and euonymus. CT Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) promoted map an app, but the app doesn't have all invasive plants in it. Lots of Norway maple on path from Town Hall to Station Place. Pradhan working with DPW on hazard tree removal, and may have native planting plan for path. Action Item: Make plan for native planting for Town Hall to Station Place path.

O'Malley land was transferred to Rutledge, abutting owner. Town refused to accept this land.

Conservation Values and use guidelines of town owned-lands: discussion of pervious surfaces.

Postponed a discussion of 2016 evaluation and 2017 activities; evaluation form and list of activities was distributed by Anderson, and members should get back to Chair with their comments and suggestions.

New Business:

Inland Wetland Commission asked us to review and make suggestions on the new Inland Wetland agency application for City Meadow. Anderson is very pleased about the request for collaboration.

Anderson spoke to WEO Halloran, read letters from DEEP and Army Corps of Engineers, and brought enlarged maps of project for viewing by NCC.

Changes were made to City Meadow plan including moving the parking area which is not reflected on maps that were distributed and is not mentioned in the plan update. Ackerly will follow up with project architect Steve Trinkaus.

A non-native *Salix purpurea* is on the list for planting. The wet meadow at Botelle School is a good reference point for the City Meadow. Opportunity to "tweak" plants can be done at time of construction. Cattails should be on list of native plants.

Area of natural water dispersal in City Meadow doesn't need to be made into swale.

A letter will be drafted to Inland Wetland Commission, expressing support for the project but listing concerns about implementation: change plant list, modify swale and determine where parking area will be. All contractors for City Meadow should be informed that no non-native plants will be used.

Removal of phragmites: excavation of soil, or cutting, or other removal methods should be described.

Plant plan for City Meadow could be strengthened. Inventory of plants is not comprehensive. Landscape architect was hired for plan.

To talk about conservation values of town lands, need to map invasive plants.

Animal sightings: red breasted nuthatch, red crossbill.

Action Items:

Klein to contact webmaster re: CC email account.

Anderson to follow up with Zetterstrom re: invasive plants on Mountain Rd.; to follow up with John Allyn re: Botelle School wet meadow mowing; and to follow up with DEEP re: Wood Creek Pond mowing.

Ackerly to follow up with Trinkaus re: parking lot plan for City Meadow.

Need to organize Dec. 15 work day.

Pradhan organizing native plant plan for Town Hall to Station Place path.

Anderson to draft letter to Inland/Wetland Commission regarding City Meadow plan.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Martha Klein, secretary