

Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 552, Norfolk, Connecticut 06058

MINUTES

Special Meeting
July 23, 2018
5:00 pm

Botelle School Wet Meadow and City Meadow

Having a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Conservation Commission Chair John Anderson. In attendance were John Anderson, Nash Pradhan, and Susannah Wood. There were only occasional light rain showers during the walks.

The members walked the mowed trail through the school meadow to view the condition of the meadow and identify some of the plants there. There was a mix of native and non-native plants. Non-native plants included: valerian, purple loosestrife, bird's-foot trefoil, crown vetch, some cool season grasses, glossy buckthorn, and white willow. Native plants included: rough-leaved goldenrod, several species of sedges, a bulrush, sensitive fern, alder, heart-leaved willow, silky willow, shiny willow, and sage willow. There was some discussion about maintenance. It was agreed that the meadow should be mowed later this year with a rotary mower after fall-flowering native species have set seed.

The members then traveled to City Meadow and walked the boardwalk. Many of the trees and some of the shrubs planted last year were dead or extremely stressed. The areas planted to plugs of herbaceous wetland plants were doing well. Much of the site was re-vegetating with both native and non-native plants. There were many areas of non-native *Phragmites* regrowth, though most of it was stunted and non-native bluegrass in the mid-section of the swale. There were also areas with abundant native sedges, bulrushes and cattail (there were some non-native narrow-leaved cattail near the lower swale). Due to the rains, water flow could be observed and some erosion had occurred in the upper swale, but most of the area where the swale was covered in landscape netting and straw-logs was stable. There was discussion about what more can or should be done here. Vegetation was growing up between the gaps in the boardwalk decking and questions were raised about how this might be addressed. It seemed obvious to the members present that much more work was needed to remove invasive plants, to plant untreated areas and to remove dead and dying trees and shrubs. Also, some of the trees and shrubs can be relocated to the drier periphery of the meadow, where they might survive.

Adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Minutes submitted by John Anderson, Chair
July 23, 2018