

**Conservation Commission, Town Of Norfolk
PO Box 552, Norfolk, CT 06058**

**Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Anderson at 6:06 p.m. In attendance were John Anderson, Libby Borden, and Martha Klein.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the May meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Correspondence: It was noticed that CACIWC didn't list our name in their brochure. We have now updated our membership and they did list Norfolk Conservation Commission.

Budget and Expenses: There is \$46 left in this year's budget after Norway maple tree removal. **Action Item:** Klein to notify Wood to submit receipt for reagent by Tuesday, because it's the end of fiscal year.

Public Comment Period was deferred as no members of the public were present.

Old Business

Invasive Plant Removal Workday

We are planning an end of Summer/Early Fall workday at Botelle School.

Plant Exchange: deferred to July meeting.

Town Hall Garden: deferred

Buttermilk Falls Park Norway Maple Removal

We are planning to hold a workday in mid-summer at Buttermilk Falls Park: we need to remove Norway maple saplings. Gout weed was mowed down at Harms' request. Harms will contact us to arrange a day when she returns.

Road Salt: deferred

Village Green: deferred

Invasive Plant Brochure: deferred

City Meadow

Anderson missed the most recent Monday meeting. There will now be project follow through by soil scientist Michael Klein, who has been retained to review what has been

done at City Meadow and to report to Army Corps of Engineers. Jess Toro was hired to remove invasive plants. Mike Nadeau and Cathy Connolly will overlap on invasive plant removal and will design a long range plan (advise which plants need to be removed, the planting arrangement that will be most beneficial, whether seeding is required or plugs) in order to restore the area to meadow status. **Action Item:** Anderson needs to check on the status of replacement plants from Sumco.

Natural Resources Inventory

Anderson sent an email reminder to everyone who worked on the original NRI requesting updates to any maps they worked on. There is a need to increase NRI committee to include others outside of CC. This task is very consuming and is taking up a big chunk of our agenda every month. There will be expense related to updating maps due to the need to hire a cartographer. Parcel map for town has been updated. Anderson sent the list of maps needed and all the layers. There are resources in town that we should enlist to help with our map development. **Action Item:** Anderson will make a budget for the cost of the maps and printing the new NRI. **Action Item:** Klein will write an introduction to a new section on climate data, including information about earlier blooming of plants.

Plastics Ban/Sustainability: deferred

Review of and Planning for 2019 activities

Moth Night:

Borden found that Norfolk Land Trust wants to participate, so we are planning for an August Moth Night on Village Green. **Action Item:** Borden will plan Moth Night date in collaboration with CC. **Action Item:** Klein will ask Borden for email addresses for those who attended Plant Walk and Talk, to invite for workdays and other events.

New Business

Gravel Paving Under Utility Lines in Right-Of-Way

A concerned group has been meeting with Eversource regarding their new practice of gravel paving along right-of-ways under the utility lines. Anderson missed last meeting. A sub-committee of CT Botanical Society is putting pressure on Eversource to modify this practice, which is not ecological. Eversource got approval to do work in Robin Swamp, Canaan. A request was made that Eversource not put gravel in sensitive areas. Eversource is mowing down to the ground in areas adjacent to the gravel paving, another non-ecological practice. CT Siting Council approved Eversource work. Anderson pointed out that no one has had access to entire property to identify if rare plants exist. Because Eversource calls this “maintenance”, no environmental analysis was done. **Action Item:** Anderson will share reports on why sensitive habitats should be protected.

Review of Action Items and Agenda for Next Meeting

We will cancel the August meeting, and have a regular July meeting. **Action Item:** Klein will send notice of August cancellation to town clerk and webmaster.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn at 6:47 p.m.

Minutes submitted by
Martha Klein, secretary
July 1, 2019