

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, Sep. 18, 2019 at Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order 6:02 p.m. by Commission Chair Anderson. In attendance were John Anderson, Shelley Harms, Martha Klein, Nash Pradhan, and Susannah Wood.

**Minutes:** A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the June meeting minutes. There was no quorum for July meeting, so no meeting took place.

**Correspondence:** Harms got copies of invasive plant brochure that we can distribute.

**Budget and Expenses:** There is \$2598.59 in the current budget; Wood was reimbursed for reagent used for Road Salt testing, and \$60 is still owed to Harms for brochures. Commission owes \$50 to Wood for payment made to Bridget Zacharczenko, PhD for Moth Night; each participating organization paid \$50 to total \$200. Wood will send invoice to Anderson who will send to Selectmen's office.

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

**Old Business**

**Moth Night** was well attended; Historical Society room was full, actually beyond capacity, with at least 35 people, including a lot of kids. It was a successful event which should be repeated next year but at a darker location, such as the town ballfield which is closer to forest and has access to electricity. We could also consider repeating the program at different times of year. Aton Forest has a moth collection that could be shown.

**Action Item:** Wood will begin to look at setting up for next year.

**Plant Exchange** was very successful this summer; at least 17 people took plants, with only a few left-over. We note an increasing awareness of invasive plants.

**Road Salt Testing-** Wood is getting ready to do September testing. She is in the process of having the data converted to salinity (testing if for conductivity). One of the highest readings is on North Colebrook Road, maybe due to the large amount of salt applied in winter. There are also high values where Wood Creek goes under Routes 44 and 272. Areas of poor drainage on the roads cause increased salt use which is harming the environment. An improved road drainage plan is needed. HVA gave a roadside training for local towns; we could provide Norfolk road crew with that training.

**Action Item:** Klein to investigate guidelines for best roadside practice for example, VT Guideline for Best Roadside Practices & movies. Cary Institute.

In the past, Anderson has flagged invasive plants and shrubs for town crew convenience; discussion ensued of using red and white tapes, for example, to identify plants to remove and plants to preserve. We should mark knot-weed, which is noted by all to be increasing. The frequency and timing of mowing can also impact the growth of invasive plants.

**Village Green-** There is general concern about the health of the trees; Norway maples should be removed. CC could contribute to Norway maple removal. Pradhan will provide a list of native trees and plants for consideration by the town, to replace trees which may be lost due to age or disease.

**Memorial Green-** Pradhan is making a proposal to replace dying trees with trees native to the U.S. Temperature extremes are causing tree death.

**Invasive Plant removal-** Harms suggests tree sapling removal in Buttermilk Falls Park on Saturday, September 28 at 9:00 a.m. **Action Item:** Harms will send promotion of date.

**City Meadow-** Anderson attended Monday meeting. Discussion of plan for “bump-outs” and stairway. Herbicide Spraying was done again for phragmites. Parts of boardwalk are rotting so are being replaced with partly recycled plastic and wood boards called Trex. It may be necessary to put signs up at start of path to encourage walkers to walk. There was a large amount of plant die-off (as high as 100%); the original contractor Sumco won’t replace any plants but gave \$1000 for plants, which were purchased all native, although not wetland specific. Pradhan will hold these plants for the winter.

**Botelle School Wet Meadow-** Anderson wasn’t able to mow this year. Anderson will ask First Selectman Riiska who may know someone with a small tractor to mow; it’s necessary to use a small tractor to avoid making ruts. Anderson needs to mark plants that shouldn’t be cut and we need to schedule a work day this fall.

**NRI 10 year update- Action Items:** Anderson to send Klein the AF research data on earlier flowering times for Klein to write climate change section. Harms to send to Anderson locally important soils for the 10 year update.

**Plastics Ban-** CC should start with a town-wide assessment of what single use plastic items are being used/passed out to customers. **Action items:** Klein to inquire at Corner Store and Infinity Hall Restaurant; Pradhan to inquire with Curling Club, Norfolk Pub, and Botelle School, Borden to inquire at Country Club and the Church.

### **New Business**

The NRI was posted online by a private company. **Action Item:** Anderson will draft a letter to the company, send a copy to the town, and will follow up in October.

**Knotweed workshop by HVA-** Knotweed is spreading along the Housatonic River; the river actually moves the plants. Blackberry River also may be spreading knotweed. NCC could take a role in Blackberry river. Training included learning about herbicide spraying.

**Invasive Plant Inventory/ Invasive plant map at the Hub-** Discussion of need to make use of the Invasive Plant map at the Hub and make sure that we add pins to locations of problem areas to the map. This is a very good time of year to identify invasive plants, particularly Celastrus and burning bush. We will hold an invasive plant inventory event in town on Saturday, November 9. **Action Item:** Klein will draft an article regarding invasive plants readily visible in the autumn and a promotion about November 9th invasive plant inventory for the November Norfolk Now, and send to Anderson for editing by October 10.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by  
Martha Klein, secretary  
September 26, 2019