

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at Town Hall**
Email: conservationcommission@norfolkct.org

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 6:03 p.m. In attendance were John Anderson, Libby Borden, Shelley Harms, and Martha Klein.

Agenda: Borden requested an item to be added to the agenda regarding collaborative invasive plant removal activities with other town agencies and non-profits.

Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to approve the November minutes.

Correspondence: The new webmaster is Lesley Battis. Klein will reach out to her directly to ask if our new email address can be added to our page on the town website.

Budget: Currently we have \$2239.00 in the budget. Approximately \$410 was spent to print invasive plant brochures, which we still have a small number of.

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

Old Business

Road Salt testing - deferred

Village Green - deferred

City Meadow - Erosion control is needed to manage the erosion caused by water that flows down the hill. The engineer who was hired looked at City Meadow and made suggestions to remediate the erosion problem. Ideally, what is needed is to line the basin with stone and revegetate the banks which would slow water flowing down. Erosion control could be improved by reshaping the upper part of the water that comes out of the culverts and flows down the hill. Apparently these recommendations from the engineer are too expensive to implement.

This erosion control was part of the original plan but was not implemented. The engineer has to give a report to the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Discussion ensued about the need to pass a state law to take a small amount from real estate sales to fund care for town land. Harms wrote testimony in support of the bill last year; we should do so again in the 2020 legislative session.

Botelle School Wet Meadow - deferred
NRI 10 year update - deferred
Plastic Ban/Sustainability - deferred

Buttermilk Falls Park Invasive plant removal -
Numerous small Norway maple trees still need to be removed. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to pay Goshen Tree Co. no more than \$500 to remove a minimum of 10 medium sized trees. **Action Item:** Anderson and/or Pradhan need to confirm that Goshen Tree has correctly identified Norway maples for removal. Harms will hire and check that they remove the correct number of trees.

Invasive Plant Map at the Hub -
Some people are using it, but we're out of various colors of pins. Discussion ensued of follow up to residents identifying problem areas. We plan two things to follow up; polite letters informing town businesses and residents who may not be aware of the invasive plants on their property, and articles in Norfolk Now addressing specific invasive plants and their removal. Discussion ensued of Knot Weed Hedge at the Funeral Home.
Action item: Klein will purchase more pins for map at the Hub.

New Business

Suggest New Invasive Plant Removals/ 2020 Activities

Borden raised the issue of other town agencies and non-profits, such as the Community Association, that would like to donate money for invasive plant control. The Conservation Commission can't accept donations but those funds could be given to the town which could supplement our budget for invasive plant removal activities in 2020. Discussion ensued about a collaborative town project to remove invasive plants using donated money. Harms and Borden are both willing to be leaders from the Conservation Commission on the collaborative effort.

New CC member recruitment - We need to do outreach. **Action Item:** Anderson will reach out to one potential new member and will report back to commission.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Minutes submitted by
Martha Klein, secretary
Dec. 22, 2019