

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Anderson at 6:05 p.m. In attendance are John Anderson, Libby Borden, Shelley Harms, Martha Klein, Nash Pradhan, and Susannah Wood.

Minutes: Harms moved to approve February Minutes, Wood seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Correspondence: Aquarian water company/Eversource gives an annual award. Discussion of possible nomination by CC of Connecticut Land Conservation Council or Connecticut Botanical Society for award.

Anderson heard a presenter at CBS that we should consider as presenter for future (William Bryant Logan).

March 23 CT Ornithological Society at Middlesex Community College

April 14-16 Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference in Groton CT (75th annual)

Aton Forest workshops: Vernal Pools in April, Birding in May

CC received a letter from town regarding the Mountain Road replacement. They are requesting comments; work is planned for Spring 2020.

Email address: easiest to set up our own google account. **Action item:** Klein will create email account and share with Harms to put on Facebook.

Budget and Expenses:

\$1746.21 in Budget remaining now.

\$20 was paid for reagent for water testing purchased by Wood and she will submit for reimbursement.

Anderson to follow up on the coming year budget.

Old Business

Buttermilk Falls Park

Norway maple removal invoice is for \$2300 for large and small trees, from Eric Asklar of Goshen Tree. Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to pay up to \$1700 for removal of Norway maples. **Action Item:** Harms will follow up with Goshen Tree regarding cost.

Discussion of herbicide treatment to stumps in order to prevent shoots. There is a need to place shrubs in the area where the Norway maples are removed. In addition, there has been an emphasis on Buttermilk Falls Park invasive removal while other areas in town also require removal, such as the Town Green.

In the event we can't treat each cut stump with herbicide, we should apply a bucket or black tarp to prevent sprouting.

Road Salt Issues

Wood met with Ed Machowski. She ordered the calibration solution which is required for periodic quality control check.

Protocol consists of performing testing every month, to create long range data base.

Wood recommends testing 15 sites per month. Various locations to be determined by road salt team but include: Crossing on Route 44 at Alfa Romeo, Wood Creek, Toby Pond, Catholic Church, City Meadow below Station Place, and others.

Low Salt means using low sodium chloride and using calcium chloride and sodium chloride mixed. But it doesn't necessarily mean using a smaller amount of road salt.

Wood recommends moving to a brine based system and purchasing a brine spreader to share between towns. It may be most cost effective to manufacture brine for numerous towns and share a tank. One third less salt is used to make brine and less is applied to roads. A collaborative plan between towns can be presented to NHCOCG.

Here's a link to the Cary Institute report on road salt:

Road Salt - Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

<https://www.caryinstitute.org/.../road-salt/road-salt-problem-solution-and-how-get-ther...>

Invasive plant brochures- deferred

We could use the one from CT River Coastal Conservation District. Harms can get more.

Natural Resources Inventory 10 year update

Wood had conversation with Michele Sloan and will look at map for any updates to 490 land.

The maps for the POCD will not have a stamp on them so we can use them for the NRI update. We can use their template and base map, for free, and then supply them with parcel maps.

Action Item: Send any map updates to Anderson.

Anderson will follow up with P&Z about the other maps.

Updates to NRI other than maps: Bird list. **Action Item:** Harms will update bird list.

Action Item: Anderson will update plantscape section, and will include new data on difference in flowering times in plants, which in some cases are earlier by as much as eight days. Changes related to climate will be an addition to the NRI.

We need a volunteer who can edit the text pages of the old NRI.

Action Item: Anderson will create a budget required to update the NRI, including editing of text, updates and printing. Will try to use similar design for consistency.

Review of and Planning for 2019 activities

EDC will buy a membership for all the commissions in town at the Hub, so that all commissions can hold events there. We will hold our May 11 Invasive Plant Walk and Talk at 2pm-4pm at the Hub.

Action item: Anderson will confirm with the Hub for May 11 date.

Action item: Klein will get promotion into Norfolk Now for May 11 Talk and Walk, and June 8 Plant Exchange.

Action item: Harms will create a flyer for the plant exchange.

Action Item: Klein will ask Webmaster to put events on town website, and Harms will put events on Facebook.

Action Item: Klein will get May 11 promo to Dawn Whalen at the Hub.

Nash mentioned as a commission we need to be leaders in the movement to cope with plastic pollution. We could support an effort to get rid of straws and other single use items, and/or suggest a town ban on plastic bags. We should start with an educational approach. Nash can take the lead with help from other volunteers. This will be an item on the April agenda; everyone please bring their ideas.

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by
Martha Klein, secretary
April 1, 2019