

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Commission Chair Anderson. In attendance are John Anderson, Martha Klein, Nash Pradhan, and Susannah Wood.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the March regular meeting minutes; motion unanimously passed.

Correspondence: Aquarion/Eversource wants candidates to be nominated for their environmental award. The Farmington River Watershed Association news bulletin was received.

Budget and Expenses: We have \$1746.21 in the budget. \$1700.00 is earmarked for Goshen tree for Norway maple removal at Buttermilk Falls Park; expense for water testing reagent to be reimbursed to Wood. Discussion of cost of plants for native plant exchange; Nash is able to get plants donated for exchange.

No public comment period as no members of public were present.

Old Business

Town Hall Garden Maintenance

Matt Riiska notified Commission that the wall at the back of town hall native planted garden is damaged; plants will need to be removed and stored at Ginger Creek nursery, and Nash will replant after the wall is repaired.

Buttermilk Falls Park

Invasive plant (Norway maple) removal is nearly complete and Goshen Tree will be paid upon completion.

Road Salt testing

Wood started process and has made a spread sheet; she tested four sites already. Protocol calls for monthly testing. "A" is upstream testing site, "B" is downstream site. Wood will meet with First Selectman to discuss plan for road treatment by Public Works Dept.

Invasive Species Brochure: deferred

Natural Resources Inventory 10 year update

Action Item: Klein to follow up with Historical Society regarding historic map.

Action Item: Wood checking with town regarding changes made to 490 map.

Mapping is in process for P&Z for POCD document. We have about a dozen maps for NRI; various state databases such as CLEAR are being used to add layers on maps.

Anderson to inquire cost of updating our maps; will be more expensive if layers have to be recreated.

Climate change data will be a new section in the NRI; Anderson has new data on plant flowering and will look at data from Great Mountain Forest on changes in blooming times.

Review of and Planning for 2019 Activities

We need flyers for May 11 Talk and Walk. **Action Item:** Anderson will make flyer to post in town. **Action Items:** Klein will send blurb to Wood & Anderson, and to Norfolk webmaster; Wood will post blurb/flyer to other list-servs.

Plant Exchange

June 8 at the Farmer's Market. Pradhan will bring plants, Klein will set up and table from 10am to noon. Wood will table and take down from noon to 2pm.

Work day

Date and Time to be determined. We will try to recruit volunteers for work day at Talk and Walk and Plant Exchange.

Town Green

Wood talked with Barry Webber who is interested as NCA head to make Green more environmentally rich. Wood requested Pradhan to consult with her and Webber regarding plantings. Shrubs and perennials are needed.

City Meadow Update

Next meeting is April 15 which Anderson is unable to attend. City Meadow committee considering hiring landscape designers; proposal received from Mike Nadeau Wholistic Land Care Consultant. Budget is unclear at present. Plan probably to begin in summer/fall.

Dead trees and dead plants must be removed; unclear if that can be done by town crew or town needs to hire. The committee needs advice from Pradhan about dying plants: what can be maintained and how; and what can not be saved and needs to be removed.

New plants to replace dead plants should be prepared prior to planting for conditions.

Stairway will be built to Arcanum building.

Action Items: Anderson and Pradhan will determine which plants must be removed and how, and should advise City Meadow committee.

New Business

Plastics ban: we need a rough proposal of how Conservation Commission can execute a plastic ban, whether it be voluntary or by ordinance. An important aspect of the plan should be an educational program at Botelle School.

Action Item: Klein and Pradhan will bring rough proposal to May meeting.

Sustainable CT

Wood went to a meeting and was impressed by what other towns are doing. It would benefit us to learn what other CC's are doing regarding sustainability. We will consider convening a meeting with local CC to exchange ideas regarding sustainability.

In addition, we will consider doing a presentation for the town.

The best role of the CC regarding sustainability may be the dissemination of information. This will be an agenda item at our next meeting.

Meeting of Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference was discussed.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by
Martha Klein, secretary
May 7, 2019