

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes,
Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Anderson at 6:02 p.m. In attendance were John Anderson, Libby Borden, Shelley Harms, Martha Klein, Susannah Wood, and Second Selectman Paul Madore, who attended the first part of the meeting.

Minutes: One typo was corrected (wrong tense). A motion was made and seconded to approve the April meeting minutes; the motion unanimously passed and the minutes were approved.

Budget and Expenses: There is still \$1700 remaining in current year budget; this will pay for tree removal at Buttermilk Falls Park (32 trees were removed). Town is adding \$400 to our annual budget for upcoming year.

Public Comment Period

Paul Madore asked, how does CC inform decisions that are made by town?

Anderson replied that CC made recommendations when NRI was released, for various commissions. Now with new POCD coming out, there may be a way for us to be more pro-active with other commissions.

Madore explained that P&Z intends to organize meetings around the new POCD and bring the various town commissions together. This will provide an opportunity to determine which commission can best deal with which issue.

Some issues CC has worked on in the past are:

Scenic Road ordinance

Farmland soil determination

Attempt conveyance fee

Old Business

Invasive Plant Removal Workday

Discussion of best time for workday, which should be late summer/early fall, perhaps late September when school is back in session. Consideration of North Swamp Trail, which has multiple invasive plants that should be removed. Students should be invited. **Action**

Item: Klein will obtain emails from all attendees of Plant Walk & Talk and invite to workday.

Invasive Plant Exchange

Harms requested table, tent and chair from Farmers Market. Klein will set up with Pradhan at 9:30 a.m. and table from 10am to 11:30am; Wood will table from 11:30am to 1:00 p.m. and take down. **Action Item:** Klein will put promotion for plant exchange into Norfolk Now.

Buttermilk Falls Park Norway maple removal

32 pole sized and larger trees were removed. Gout weed is growing in now and must be mowed down. Discussion of management of gout weed and Norway maple sprouts at Buttermilk Falls Park.

Road Salt

Wood needs to purchase packets of reagent, and needs to contact testing company to determine which solution should be used for calibration. Wood is keeping data in spread sheet; discussion of how to share with CC.

Village Green

A meeting with Pradhan, Barry Webber and Doreen Kelly was held. They discussed putting native plantings at base of sign, and around the fountain. Other areas should be left open and unplanted for events. Norfolk Community Association, Land Trust and CC can plan a joint event for the summer, perhaps around July 4th holiday. Suggested ideas, "Moth Night", etc. **Action Items:** Wood will locate a moth expert to give presentation; Borden will confirm with Land Trust that they will participate in the event. One Norway spruce on Village Green is not well and will be evaluated for health. Sycamore maple on Village Green is very large and is invasive.

Invasive Plant Brochure

Action Item: Klein to contact Harms re: brochures for June 8 plant exchange.

City Meadow

City Meadow Committee is reviewing proposals from landscape architects Mike Nadeau and Kathy Connolly, which deals with phragmites and other invasive plants. Next meeting will be held on Monday, May 20. A proposal for 2019 was made to treat phragmites individually. Former contractor Sumco was supposed to replace dead and dying plants: they now are supposed to replace some dead trees.

Plastic Bag Ban

Discussion of plastic bag ban in town: how to reduce waste, need to determine amount of waste created by town; information was gathered on this and published in Norfolk Now recently. Discussion of need to create a food compost area at town transfer station, and

whether a ban can be voluntary or by ordinance. Klein will continue to provide information to CC about various initiatives in other towns and states.

New Business

Discussion of Emerald Ash Borer. Concern about many species of trees which are under siege; conversation will be continued at next meeting on June 19.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Minutes submitted by
Martha Klein
June 3, 2019