

Minutes
Norfolk Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 552
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Regular Meeting
Zoom Video Meeting
11/17/21

Present: Martha Klein, Susannah Wood, John Anderson, Nash Pradhan, Shelley Harms

Absent: Libby Borden

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to accept the minutes of the September 22nd meeting.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: No new correspondence. Following up on the September list of meetings:

Action Items:

Martha will keep the commission informed on a new date for an information meeting on the North Canaan asphalt plant situation

Martha and Nash attended the virtual UCONN sponsored meeting on native plants and invasives and Martha will send a link to the recording

Susannah will follow up with White Memorial re: citizens guide to keeping lakes healthy

Budget: Martha reported we have the same amount as stated at the July meeting - \$4085.00

Road Salt Testing: Susannah hopes to do one more round of testing in November

Village Green: No action. It was decided we should ask the town arborist to come to a meeting at some point this winter to discuss getting more native trees planted.

Action Item: Nash will get that in motion.

Pollinators: Shelley reported that the Green Team at the Congregational Church is very interested in doing pollinator-friendly plantings on the property and to get behind a town wide effort encouraging No Mow May. There appears to be some resistance to removing the Norway Maples on the property.

Action Item: Shelley to coordinate a joint program with the Green Team on pollinators and pollinator-friendly practices.

North Colebrook Road: Susannah shared an email with the commission from Cynthia Rabinowitz on her trip to the turn-around site. A discussion followed on how to deal with the invasive Japanese knotweed on site.

Action Item: Susannah will forward Cynthia's recommendations on to Matt adding a strong recommendation that the knotweed be hand cut and removed three times a summer, smothered under plastic or mulch and that the material removed be burned, not dumped. The commission will offer some assistance in this effort.

Buttermilk Falls No action

NRI: Sus Frisch reported she will have edited the climate and weather section shortly. It was decided to expand the title to include air quality. John has fleshed out the waste management section. Susannah has a commitment from Tracy Zarillo for a bumble list for Norfolk.

Action Item: The committee members should continue to review the recommendations and the rest of the NRI for any other changes.

Action Item: Martha will send a para to John about waste management and climate

Action Item: Susannah to follow up with Tracy on her list and cc John.

City Meadow: work has begun on the stairs and fountain area. Cynthia Rabinowitz is developing a planting plan for the entire area. The big issue will be funding on-going maintenance as town hall does not want to foot that bill. Ed Machowski to do signs on the natural history of the area and it's importance. The proposed parking area at the fire house needs to have a rain garden to absorb the water that accumulates.

Waste Management: Martha has prepared a "home composting 101" info sheet and sent it out. Martha reported that the cost of the compost bins has gone up substantially so she will only buy two at \$189 a piece to give out along with the flyer at an event to be organized at Norfstroms. The Green Team has organized a presentation on waste management expert from through the HUB for January 5th.

Action Item: Get back to Martha with any suggestions on the flyer.

New Business: Martha has found a new alternate member for the commission: Sam Williams.

Action Item: Martha to put the appointment in motion

2022 Activities to be discussed at the December meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Submitted by Susannah Wood, 11/23/21