

Minutes
Norfolk Conservation Commission
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Regular Meeting
Zoom Video Meeting
4/21/21

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

Absent: Mattie Vandiver

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

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

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: Martha noted she had sent out the announcement of the upcoming NWCOG workshop for town land use commissions.

Budget: No change

Road Salt: Testing continues. Susannah and Mattie noticed a higher reading on one side of the Benedict Pond site than on the other maybe due to a pile of salty sand from the winter right near the downstream side. Susannah reported that she had sent Matt information and talked to him about what small towns are doing in the Adirondacks to reduce road salt application with DIY brining programs. These have been enormously successful in cutting back on the amounts of salt going in to the streams and lakes.

Susannah proposed a motion to approve a \$100 contribution to the Carey Institute as thanks for all the help from Vicky Kelley. Martha seconded. Passed unanimously.

Action Item: Susannah and Mattie to continue testing.

Action Item: Susannah to speak with Matt about the Benedict Pond situation.

Village Green: Nothing new to report.

Botelle School Meadow: Nothing new to report

NRI: John will be working to finish this up with a target of June 1st. John is getting help with updating of files from Aaron Frisch.

Action Item: John to reach out to former contributors for any changes/updates to text.

Action Item: Shelley to review protected land map.

Action Item: Nash to review invasive species.

City Meadow: John reported that at the most recent meeting the committee asked for input on the replacement plantings for the area across from the National Iron Bank where invasives are to be removed. Bids are coming in for the work on the stair and plaza area. There will be a webinar on May 24th about the past and present of the meadow project.

Nash reported the bird boxes are almost ready to install. He needs to buy 10 posts which the commission will pay for; the cost is approximately \$30. Susannah moved to approve the expense. Shelley seconded. Passed unanimously.

Action Item: John to collect suggestions on plantings for bank.

Buttermilk Falls: Shelley proposed a workday on May 15th/16th, preferably the Saturday at 9 a.m.

FOIA Meeting: Martha reminded everyone about some of the important rules to remember. No decisions by email, which should only be used for passing on information or giving a heads-up. Minutes should be submitted no later than 7 days after a meeting. Proper notice of the agenda should be submitted well before an upcoming meeting.

Waste Management: Susannah passed on to Matt information about Curbside Compost and also cloth recycling.

Action Item: Susannah to further discuss with Matt town-wide composting and getting cloth recycling bins at transfer station.

Public Events for 2021: The calendar of presentations will be as follows, possibly on Monday evenings:

May 18th: Backyard Composting with Mary Hogue

Action Item: Martha to contact Dawn about possible doing a joint webinar through the HUB and asking her to publicize the events.

Action Item: Martha to contact Abe at Sustainable CT about a possible grant for composting containers to either give away or sell at a minor cost.

June: Gardening for Soil Health

Action Item: Nash to pursue presenter.

July: Plastics (part of plastic-free July)

Action Item: Martha to confirm with Anne Hulick

August: Possibly proforestry on either the 16th/17th or 23rd/24th.

September 21st: Sensible bear management with Dr. Tracey Rittenhouse

There was a discussion about possibly giving \$100 as an honorarium to our speakers, but only if they request it. Actual approval would be on a case-by-case basis.

Another idea for public outreach would be to provide a new book on some environmental topic to the library each year.

Action Item: Susannah to discuss with Ann Havemeyer and report back.

John reported that the Weekend in Norfolk Committee would like the commission to come up with a walk this summer for the WIN weekend. We will need to come up with a title in the coming month.

Invasive Plants: Plant exchange at the Norfolk Farmer's Market in June, probably June 26th.. Will also have information about composting.

Action Item: Shelley to organize with help from other members of the commission. People should contact Shelley for shift sign up.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Submitted by Susannah Wood, 4/27/21