

Minutes
Norfolk Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 552
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Regular Meeting
Zoom Video Meeting
7/21/21

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

Absent: Libby Borden, Mattie Vandiver

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to accept the minutes of the June 16th meeting.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: Renewal of CT Land Conservation Council membership was rejected as the Commission is not involved in land acquisition and management. Any commissioner who wants to attend the CLCC annual meeting can do so and be reimbursed for the admission fee. Commission agreed to renew membership in CACIWIC through town hall together with the Wetlands Commission at a better rate. Information from the Society of Soil Scientists can be accessed on line with QR code. Martha will have the code in her files if anyone wants to use it.

Budget: No change. Martha believes we have \$4,085 going forward. Susannah mentioned we should make sure to include the \$100 paid to the Center for Ecosystem Studies in appreciation of all the help Vicky Kelly has given us.

Action Item: Martha will double-check this figure with town hall. Also, will ask if the commission is allowed to raise money on its own for its activities and what restrictions apply.

Action Item: Susannah to email Martha the cost of the two books given to the library and contact town hall for reimbursement.

Road Salt and other road issues: Susannah reported that a meeting will take place with Matt and Cynthia Rabinowitz and Karen Nelson of the Northwest Conservation District to discuss strategies for more environmentally friendly road maintenance going forward. Shelley reported that many, many trees had been removed along North Colebrook Rd and the impact on nesting birds. Tree removal should ideally be done outside of nesting season.

It was agreed we should be in touch with the Norfolk tree warden.

Action Item: Susannah and Mattie to continue testing.

Village Green and Welcome to Norfolk Signs: Nash reported he was successful in adding some native plants to the selection around the signs on Rte. 44

Botelle School Meadow: Shelley and Nash are working on more bluebird boxes with a goal of putting up about 30, some at the meadow and some at other locations in town.

NRI: John has sent a mockup to Aaron Frisch and is waiting to hear back. He had not heard from Sarah Pellegrino on the update of the climate change section. Shelley reached out to her during the meeting to put them in touch.

Action Item: Commission members are to review the recommendations before the August 18th meeting to see if we need to update them. The August meeting will focus only on the NRI.

Action Item: John to send out edited material before the 18th for review

City Meadow: Committee still hasn't decided plans for clearing out the bank below John Curtis Pl. Work will have to be done by hand as it is too steep for a machine. There was a general discussion of using some part of the bank as a pollinator plant demonstration. John will urge that the replanting of the bank at very least use a prairie mix. Maintenance will be a challenge, again due to the terrain. Building a fund for maintenance with donations will be important. Martha and Nash proposed waiting to see what the committee comes up with before getting too far in further discussions.

Buttermilk Falls:

Action Item: Shelley to contact Sean Mzullin about mowing invasives

Waste Management: Martha submitted the grant application for compost bins to DEEP. We will hear in September. If we don't get the grant, we may be able to purchase some ourselves or get a grant elsewhere. Shelley mentioned the Evans Hughes Trust. To get a grant from Sustainable CT we would need to convince town hall to join.

Action Item: Martha to do a flyer about composting which can be available at town hall

Public Events for 2021: A conversation ensued re insect pests in our forests.

Action Item: Susannah to follow up with Jenna Brown on pollinator plantings and composting as possible parts of the Botelle School garden project.

7/31/21 WIN participation: If no one else can be found to the presentation, Susannah and John will step in.

Action Item: Martha to continue to try and find presenter for wet meadow/pollinator walk.

8/16/21 HUB Zoom talk featuring Mary Hogue at 5 p.m.

9/21/21 Bear talk via zoom “Sensible Bear Management” with Dr. Tracey Rittenhouse

Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Submitted by Susannah Wood, 7/29/21