

Minutes
Norfolk Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
February 19th, 2020

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:05

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

Public Comment: No member of the public in attendance

Correspondence: The committee received an email with the new Plan of Conservation and Development attached.

Action Item: John will ask for a hard copy from Tom Fahsbender

Budget: No Change from last month - \$2239.00

Action Item: Martha will discuss with Matt the budget for the new edition of the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

NRI update: John has discussed with HVA the creation of a few new maps (4-6) estimating it might cost around \$1200. John reported that all contributors have been contacted about their sections.

Action Items: All corrections and additions should be presented to John at the April meeting.

Martha to do climate

Susannah to do road salt

new invasive plants and pests

Road Salt:

Action Item: Susannah to talk to the new head of the road crew, Troy LaMere, about the issue and the data collected last year

Village Green: Deferred

City Meadow: John reported that Michael Klein, an independent engineer, is meant to be submitting a report. To date he has not done so though he has made recommendations. A study for sinking piers to support a stairway from John Curtiss Rd. needs to be done but funds must be raised for this. A deck is to be constructed at the edge of the pond, the cost estimated to be \$60,000. Erosion control is to be handled by the town with the advice of Bob Gilchrist.

Planting new shrubs and forbs will wait until after another round of Phragmites treatment by Bob Gambino.

Botelle School Meadow: Deferred

Plastics Ban: It was agreed we should find out what is happening in other towns and states. Lou Burch may be a good resource.

Action Items:

Martha will resend the November minutes to John

The commission members should think about plastics and gather information to share

Sustainable CT grants: Susannah reported on her conversation with Abe Hilding-Salario about the grants available to all members of Sustainable CT. The grants are funded half by Sustainable CT and half by a crowdfunding campaign that the organization would help to set up. The grant ceiling is \$30,000 with more possibly available if the project was aimed at reducing Greenhouse gases. Any outside service or purchase of hard equipment could be eligible. Possible ideas could be including invasives removal and some sort of energy efficiency improvement for low income residents.

Public Events: To be determined

Invasive Plant Map:

Action Item: Martha to get new pins

New Commission Members: Henry Tirrell has been asked and said no.

Action Item: Susannah to ask Jennifer Almquist and to find out the name of the couple on Maple Avenue who might be interested.

At 7:00 Susannah made a motion, seconded by John, to bring the meeting to a close. Passed unanimously.

John Anderson reported that the annual report has been completed and will be emailed to the commission.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the December minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Shelley has agreed to attend the meeting at the HUB on January 26th about the future of Norfolk.

Martha agreed to check and see if we are members of Sustainable CT and eligible to go to any of their meetings. She will report her findings to the commission.

Financial report: No change since the previous meeting.

Update on the NRI:

John reported he received an estimate on maps. Others felt this estimate was high and John will contact HVA to see if they can help us upgrade maps for less.

Any changes in the text should be emailed to John

Plastics:

Martha is to reach out to Lou Burch re: efforts on limiting plastics in CT

New member for the commission:

Shelley will talk to Henry Tirrell about possibly becoming a member.

Other items were deferred.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded and approved at 7 pm.