

Minutes
Norfolk Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 552
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Regular Meeting
Zoom Video Meeting
5/20/2020

Present: Martha Klein, Susannah Wood
Elizabeth Borden, Shelley Harms

Absent: John Anderson, Nash Pradhan

Meeting was called to order at 6:02

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

Public Comment: No member of the public joined the meeting.

Correspondence: Sustainable CT grant application invitation. See below.

Budget: No Change from last month - \$2239.00. Town will probably reduce our regular funding for 2020-2021. The commission will make every effort to spend down what we have by June 30th when the fiscal year ends.

Action Item: Martha to check with John on the readiness of the maps for the NRI and to prepay HVA for map work if necessary up to \$1200. A motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

Action Item: Shelley to see if she can get Norway Maple saplings removed from Buttermilk Falls site as previously approved for \$500.

NRI:

Action Item: Martha to check in with John on status

Action Item: Shelley to make sure preserved open space map is accurate

Road Salt: Susannah reported that the town used much less salt this year, partly due to milder weather but also to concerted effort reduce salt use through better training and other tactics.

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

Village Green: Susannah reported that Barry Webber is consulting with Nash over native shrubs to replace damaged plants near the veterans' monument.

City Meadow: Deferred

Botelle School Meadow: Deferred

Plastics Ban: Deferred

Sustainable CT grants: The commission wants to figure out how take advantage of this program. John sent around information about a USDA grant program for encouraging composting which can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Shelley proposed we could apply for a grant together with the HUB to set up a system of Zoom meetings for town non-profits to discourage driving and encourage more participation.

Action Item: Libby to consult with the HUB committee and Matt to see what they think of the idea.

Public Events: It was decided not to have a moth night this summer and aim for 2021. We will plan to have a notice in Norfolk Now each month about some natural history feature for families and individuals to take note of.

Action Item: Susannah inform Brigitte Zacharchenko about moth night cancellation.

Action Item: Susannah to do a June nature alert piece for Norfolk Now

Beaver control issues: Conservation Commission to explore training for town road crew and individuals through the Beaver Institute. Martha has reached out to Mike Callahan to see if we can set a webinar to educate the public about non-lethal control and the values of beavers to ecosystems. Could be a good 2020 outreach program for the fall.

Action Item: Martha to continue her efforts

Invasive Plants: Buttermilk Falls. As noted above, Shelley will pursue sapling removal.

Action Item: Libby to contact Sean Mizullin to thank him for his mowing of the goutweed at the falls.

New Commission Members: We are looking for one new member as an alternate.

Action Item: Susannah to ask Jennifer Almquist and Jill Chase and William Ticiento

At 6:40 p.m. A motion was made, seconded and adopted unanimously to end the meeting.

