

Minutes  
Norfolk Conservation Commission  
P.O. Box 552  
Norfolk CT 06058  
conservationcommission@norfolkct.org  
Regular Meeting via Zoom Video  
6/17/20

Present: Martha Klein, Susannah Wood, John Anderson, Elizabeth Borden, Shelley Harms, Katherine Vandiver (prospective commission member)

Absent: Nash Pradhan

Meeting was called to order at 6:03

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

**Public Comment:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Budget:** Matt has given warning that next year's budget will be substantially reduced but no figure has been given to date. After paying for Norway maple removal at Buttermilk Falls and the maps at HVA, the commission has \$989 left.

A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to return any unspent funds to the town in view of the budget issues caused by the economic fallout from the pandemic.

**NRI:**

New maps to be made by HVA will cost about \$750, less than was previously budgeted. A motion was made by Shelley, seconded by Susannah, passed unanimously to spend this sum.

**Action Item:** John to confer with Shelley to make sure protected lands map is correct

**Road Salt:** Susannah reports she has started testing again.

**Village Green:**

**Action Item:** Susannah to check in with Barry on possible plantings

**City Meadow:** John reported that construction of the platform is about to get underway. Native plantings are doing well. Dead areas are due to herbicide use on invasives. Matt will look for funding from grants and non-governmental sources.

John is doing a virtual tour for WIN weekend. Martha raised the glyphosate issue, saying it is a confirmed carcinogen, and hopes that if more treatment of phragmites is needed they will use the injection method, not spray.

**Botelle School Meadow:** John reported that the meadow has been mowed which will be good for fall flowering species there such as fringed gentian. Sean Mizullin has a new machine which does not leave ruts.

**Plastics Ban:** Deferred

**Sustainable CT grants:** Libby reported that NGO meetings via the auspices of the HUB is a nonstarter because the system is poor. Another idea is to get a grant going for a town composting program which would help reduce waste hauling costs and provide compost for town plantings.

**Action Item:** Susannah to contact Matt and Abe of the SustainableCT program.

**Public Events:**

**Action Item:** Martha will set up a webinar on non-lethal beaver control methods with the Beaver Institute. August 4th

**Action Item:** John to draw up a list and a simple map of notable trees people can visit without going on to private land.

**Action Item:** Susannah to do a July 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 will alert the town webmaster. Shelley will post in Norfolk Now.

**Invasive Plants:** Buttermilk Falls. 13 to 14 Norway maples have been removed. There are still some left as well as shoots to clip.

**Action Item:** Libby to contact Sean Mzullin to thank him for his mowing of the goutweed at the falls and ask him to keep doing it

Libby reported on the Norfolk Land Trust's plan to inventory invasives in Barbour Woods and to make a plan for eradication. Eliz. Corrigan has been hired to do the inventory. Libby will pass on any interesting data.

**New Business:** John reported that native plantings at Town Hall will be moved to Nash's nursery so that work can be done on the retaining wall behind them. Once work is complete the plants can be replanted.

The July meeting is cancelled by unanimous vote.

**Action Item:** Susannah will send a cancellation of the July meeting to Linda Perkins and the town webmaster.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55

Submitted by Susannah Wood

7/7/20