

Conservation Commission, Town of Norfolk, P.O. Box 552, Norfolk, Connecticut 06058

Special Monthly Meeting, Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order at 6:03 p.m.

Attending: Martha Klein, Sam Williams, Susannah Wood, John Anderson. Absent : Libby Borden, Nash Pradhan.

Review and approve minutes of the last meeting: Motion made and seconded; March minutes unanimously approved.

Correspondence: No correspondence

Budget and Expenses: No changes

Public comment period: No members of the public present

Old Business:

Road salt testing: Susannah starts testing at the end of April; Sam will join for training. Susannah made inquiries about water testing companies (Northeast Aquatics). Commission may consider paying for more detailed water testing at three sites that have particularly high readings. Private well contamination has been reported in Norfolk.

North Colebrook Rd./Road drainage: First Selectman Matt Riiska and Susannah reviewed the site. Matt approves of the following recommendations for the Town DPW: make apron smaller, less steep drainage slopes, woodchip water retention, cover Japanese Knotweed with black plastic, and remove salt pile.

NRI/ City Meadow: John hasn't heard back from Aaron about charges. Problem with list of notable trees; list of trees will be smaller. / **City Meadow:** Recent meetings canceled, John will send updates.

Village Green: Deferred

Botelle School Wet Meadow: Mowing regimen discussed.

Pollinators: Discussion of value of trees as pollinators, and possibility of encouraging tree planting on appropriate town lands.

Buttermilk Falls Park/Invasive Plants: Susannah did work; commission will reschedule work day to manage invasive plant growth.

2022 Activities: June 18 Plant Exchange, No Mow May, May 16th Tracy Zarillo Bee Webinar at 6:00 p.m. virtually.

Waste Reduction Activities: Martha will confirm with Nash that the date of Plant Exchange is June 18. Martha will make sure that promo for plant exchange is in June Norfolk Now, and will send blurb about backyard composter give-away, planned for 12:45 p.m.

Haystack Mountain EAB logging: Deferred

New Business

AARPA funds: New committee in town formed to look into how to spend AARPA funds. John referenced the old stream conductivity study by HVA demonstrating that repair of culverts with better infrastructure (not just pipes) improved wildlife mobility across these streams. Consideration of recommending to the town AARPA committee that money be spent on culvert upgrades when repair is required.

Solar Installation on Town Farm: Discussion of pros & cons of forest preservation in the context of renewable energy development. **Action Item-** Martha will plan with input from members a “forest versus solar” webinar similar to this one from Sierra Club Forest Protection Group but with CT based experts: [Solar Vs. Forests: A False Dichotomy](#).

Discussion of doing an inventory of town lands and potential uses; we started this but the data is old. Area of town land planned for solar connects to two wetlands; a vernal pool is present with Wood frog activity now. Concerns were expressed about the impact of the project on vernal pool and wetlands.

Adjourn at 7:07 PM.

Minutes Submitted by Samuel Williams, Secretary, April 26, 2022

Edited Minutes Submitted by Samuel Williams, May 17, 2022