

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

Monthly Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

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

Meeting Called to Order at 6:06 p.m.

Review and approve minutes of last meeting: Motion made, seconded, and June minutes unanimously approved.

Correspondence/ Budget and Expenses: No updates

Public comment period: No members of the public present.

Old Business

Road salt testing: No updates

North Colebrook Rd./ Road drainage: No work yet in the area of turn-around which is heavily infested with invasives. Area at top of N. Colebrook (Civco/Quale) has regrowth. Some gout weed is noted. Grass is now growing in areas of disturbance along edge of road. Most areas appear to be growing native vegetation, or wood chipped, etc. John spoke with Matt who is okay with monitoring for the time being. Susannah will follow up regarding management of invasives such as gout weed, etc. with Matt.

NRI: No updates

City Meadow: Current committee will continue until new Friends of City Meadow is established. At the last City Meadow Committee meeting, John volunteered NCC to help manage meadow. John will prepare a proposal for Matt and City Meadow committee. Management plan will combine what Cynthia Rabinowitz submitted and what John will write, including specific dates and timing of activities such as mowing, etc. The committee is also looking at a bigger landscape plan which may include hiring a new town employee to manage. Town may have a budget for some management. Role of new Friends committee is still evolving and to be decided. Ribbon cutting activity is happening on WIN weekend Aug. 5-6.

Village Green: No updates

Botelle School Wet Meadow: Mowed within the last week which is a bit late. Discussion occurred between Sean and John regarding timing of mowing and how request and town approval can be facilitated.

Pollinators/ Buttermilk Falls Park/Invasive Plants: Possibility in future of putting native planted garden at Buttermilk Falls Park, after removal of invasives. Discussion of methods for potential removal.

2022 Activities

Report from Native Plant Exchange: 15 people recorded as removing invasive plants, primarily garlic mustard, barberry, burning bush, Norway maple, bittersweet. Martha and John split tabling but it was a reminder that the table needs two people for the whole three hours. It was really busy and well attended. **Action item:** Everyone look at brochures on invasive/native plants online, and share with NCC for potential posting on new town website.

Waste Reduction Activities: Hannah Silverman won composter raffle. Six people entered.

Haystack Mountain EAB logging: July 11 6pm DEEP meeting re: hazard tree notification. Martha will attend meeting and is drafting a new email to Jeremy Clark, forester at DEEP.

New Business

Solar Installation on Town Farm: July 18 Town Meeting for vote. Town is in favor.

Document of Chair Responsibilities & Other Role Responsibilities/ Recruit new members: Nash and John are recruiting new members; they will ask them to submit a one paragraph bio of their background and interest in conservation. Martha is stepping down in Sept.

NLT: NLT received a new donation to remove invasives and are considering using it for town land. Libby made a motion for NCC to be involved in plan to remove invasives on Norfolk lands, which NLT could fund. Motion seconded, and passed unanimously.

Tree work on Town Hall to Station Place path included Oak removal but they have not yet taken out 3 notable Norway maples. There should be a liaison between NCC and selectman to follow up on management on town land. Susannah as chair is the best candidate for this role.

Adjourn 7:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sam Williams, secretary

July 11, 2022