

Conservation Commission, Town of Norfolk, P.O. Box 552, Norfolk, Connecticut 06058
Monthly Meeting Minutes, Monday, September 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting called to order at: 6:02 p.m.

In attendance: John Anderson, Martha Klein, Samuel Williams, Susannah Wood

Review and Approve prior meeting minutes: August meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Budget and Expenses: No changes

Correspondence: No new correspondence. Reminder to secretary to include the passcode in addition to the link for every Zoom meeting, for those who require phone access.

Public comment period: No members of the public present.

Old Business

Road salt testing: In August readings were very high, likely related to profound drought. Susannah will submit August and September readings.

North Colebrook Rd./ Road drainage: Susannah pulled knotweed off the apron at turn-around on N. Colebrook Road. Town considering getting equipment to aid with invasive plants. Susannah spoke with First Selectman Matt Riiska, who explained that tree removal on Doolittle Drive is, in addition to preventing power lines from coming down, meant to “push the forest back” and prevent icing in winter. **Action Item:** Susannah will reach out to C. Rabinowitz regarding Roadside Management guidelines that other northwest towns may use, and will converse with Matt about best practices for roadside management.

NRI: Review by John and experts for corrections including deciding what should be taken out of the original for the new edition is nearing completion. John and Aaron are in the process of completing lists. Sue Frisch offered to help. Expected final draft by next meeting in October.

City Meadow: Friends of Meadow met with Mike Nadeau.

Village Green: Deferred.

Botelle School Wet Meadow: The field trip was undertaken to North Swamp Trail, where copious Buckthorn is very visible. Buckthorn borders Crane property. Prior to invasive eradication and new planting, a detailed plan should be created based on observation of what is there. This is an area to consider spending funds for clearing, and to recruit other groups who can help. Another field trip should be scheduled.

Pollinators: Resources for the public on invasive plant removal and use of native plants, and Apps for identifying invasives will be added to conservation commission webpage, with links to information, articles, and Slide shows. Commission offered edits and Martha will submit to town webmaster.

Buttermilk Falls Park/Invasive Plants: Patches of Multiflora in discussion to be removed.

Action Item: Susannah to discuss mowing of the goutweed with Matt to resolve maintenance concerns. If needed, Norfolk Conservation Commission will direct a portion of the budget to maintenance.

2022 Activities: deferred. Waste Reduction Activities: deferred.

Haystack Mountain EAB logging: Recommendation to add query of how DEEP plans to manage invasive plant growth noted at base of Haystack Mountain trail to the letter. Martha will make recommended edits and submit letter.

New Business

Solar Installation on Town Farm: Plan for Plant salvage in installation area in motion to happen. A field trip needs to be scheduled. Permission was given to salvage in danger plants but a notice has to be given to the selectmen's office in advance.

Bat Habitat: New information to be congregated following neighboring town trends.

Document of Chair Responsibilities & Other Role Responsibilities/Recruit new members: Draft Handbook for the Norfolk Conservation Commission was shared with all members; send edits or suggestions to Susannah.

Adjourn: 6:47 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sam Williams, secretary

September 23, 2022