

Minutes
Norfolk Conservation
Commission
P.O. Box 552 Norfolk CT 06058
conservationcommission@norfolkct.org
Regular Meeting
Zoom Video
Meeting 8/14/23

Present: Susannah Wood, Libby Borden, Shelley Harms, John Anderson, Nash Pradhan, Bill Ticineto.

Public Guest: Jill Chase.

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

Correspondence:

- The church "Green Team" sent a postcard thanking Nash for his help.
- Loadstar letter regarding a change in the location of the utility interconnection on Greenwoods Rd. of 75 ft to is available from Susannah.

Review and approve minutes of last meeting: July minutes unanimously approved.

Budget and expenses:

NRI Budget submitted to Town hall.

Public Comment: Jill Chase gave a precis of the presentation by the fire department to the Wetlands Commission of the plans for the new firehouse.

NRI: The NRI is available via print and digital distribution.

Print: Town clerks office - \$30 cash or check, cards accepted but include service charge.

Digital (free): PDF at <https://norfolkct.org> > about Norfolk.

Future updates will be easier to implement as the file is now digital and the program is widely used. The list of people who may receive free copies is being updated.

Road Salt Testing: Susannah completed July testing.

Action Item: Susannah to continue August testing

North Colebrook Road: Susannah started cutting knotweed prior to covering with black plastic. NCC should take initiative with projects as town resources have been diverted.

Action Item: Susannah to determine who owns the property.

Village Green: Nash working with the Tree Committee to determine which trees should be removed and replaced. The meeting date is TBD.

Buttermilk Falls: Nothing new

Invasive shrubs along the Botelle/Ells Crane border: Strategy is to start clearing with professional help, perhaps Matt's Landscaping

Action Item: Libby to contact Molly.

Botelle Garden: Nash and Susannah to do a reconnaissance visit. Meeting to be set up with representatives of Farmers Market and school to strategize use of raised beds by students, farmers market and general public.

Action Item: Nash and Susannah to coordinate visit timing.

Action Item: Libby to contact Lisa Auclair and Ann Decerbo

Norfolk Country Club: Susannah met with Tracy Tucker, a member of the board of the Norfolk Country club and was able to see the chemical storage shed, all appeared safely stored and the set up has been approved by a state inspector.

Tracey Tucker said that the board has an interest in a more advanced ecological approach to the golf course going forward..

The commission would like to know what and where chemicals are being used, the reason being we are trying to protect birds and pollinators. Also the grounds crew should be educated on identifying invasive plants like Barberry.

Action Item: Nash to email Susannah his contact who is involved in organic golf course maintenance.

2023 Activities:

NRI launch: John looking into a winter talk at the library to educate Norfolk about the NRI.

Bluebird Boxes: 18 of the 20 boxes have been installed with good occupation rates

Action Item: Nash will raise the height of the City Meadow boxes.

Threats to insects talk: Susannah to reschedule library slide show in the fall.

Invasive outreach program: Five more residents have signed up for on-site removal education.

City Meadow: The plan to build a new fire house adjacent to the meadow raises many concerns for the City Meadow. Appropriation of City Meadow, building in wetlands, structure scale, amount of impermeable surfaces and water run off are all areas of concern. The commission is going to gather more information in order to prepare a letter for the public hearing.

A public hearing meeting to discuss the firehouse is set for September 5th, Tuesday 7:00.

A special Zoom meeting of the NCC to discuss the firehouse has been scheduled for August 28th, 6:00.

Action Item: Bill and Jill to meet with Mike Halloran.

Action Item: Libby to meet with Tony Kaiser

Action Item: NCC to contact Friends of the Meadow.

Action Item: Susannah to contact Mike Sconyers

Action Item: NCC to write a letter and encourage other groups to do so.

NCC Meetings: Discussion of having occasional "in person meetings" rather than always via Zoom. Currently looking at scheduling the November 5th meeting in person.

Action Item: Shelley to send Zoom links for the October meeting when Susannah is away.

Action Item: Bill will look into meetings at the HUB as they are well set up for hybrid Zoom/in-person meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m. Next regular meeting 09/11/2023 Submitted by Bill Ticineto