

Minutes  
Norfolk Conservation Commission  
P.O. Box 552 Norfolk CT 06058  
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Regular Meeting  
In Person at the HUB  
December 9, 2024



**Present:** Susannah Wood, Becky Eaton, John Anderson, Nash Pradhan, Bill Ticineto.

**Absent:** Libby Borden, Shelley Harms.

**Public Guest:** None.

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Review and approve minutes of last meeting:** November minutes approved.

**Budget and expenses:** Nothing new.

**Road Salt Testing:** Monitoring to start again in early 2025.

**Action Item:** Susannah to contact Matt regarding the environmental and financial benefits of “brining” rather the application of road salt.

Susannah to distribute report on 2024 readings at January meeting.

**North Colebrook Road:** Billy Gridley has enlisted Tom Zetterstrom to help with invasive plant removal at Aton Forest properties.

**Action Item:** Susannah and Becky will meet with Billy Gridley to discuss how to approach Drew Qualley about Japanese knotweed infestation and to urge action on North Colebrook Rd infestation.

**Composting program:** Nothing New. This item is on hold.

**Wetlands/Zoning Enforcement Officer:** Susannah and John had a productive meeting with Stacey Sefcik. The NCC would like to schedule meetings with members of other agencies and commissions. Susannah has reached out to Hartley Mead and the Inland Wetlands Commission to invite them to come to the January meeting.

**Solar Field Development:** Susannah and Nash went to the ribbon cutting.

**Action Item:** Susannah will offer to write an article for the Norfolk Now on the project and the future of similar community based solar projects.

**Action Item:** John will monitor the planting in the spring.

**NCC self-promotion:** A “Green Neighbors” program to promote and acknowledge residents to engage in environment activities was suggested.

**Action Item:** John to contact Hank Gruner to schedule a talk on how home owners have an effect on ecosystems and how the commission can maximize its efforts by working with other key players in the community.

**Action Item:** Shelley will contact Alec Linden to contribute articles.

**NCC Invasive Removal Team:** Physical activities concluded until early spring. Concepts for the “invasive of the month” program will begin. Erick Olson to talk to the NCC.

**Action Item:** John to reach out to Erick

**Action Item:** Bill to determine the cost of including an insert in the Norfolk Now.

**Native plantings at Station Place:**

**Action item:** Susannah to continue trying to reach Colleen Hellerman

**Friends of the City Meadow:** No report

**Light pollution:** Susannah contacted Kate Johnson regarding the lighting at the affordable housing on Shepard rd. The concern is they are not an environmentally friendly temperature range. Kate reported that the board is supportive of the idea. They are waiting to hear back on cost. The same issue exists at Mountainside Center. Susannah has the name of the manager at Mountainside.

**Action Item:** Susannah to follow up with Kate.

**Action Item:** The commission should decide on how to approach the manager and who will take this on.

**NRI chapter of the month:** In progress.

**Action Item:** Susannah, John and Bill working on content.

**Special Meeting of Norfolk Conservation Groups:** Nothing new.

**Rails to Trails:** Nothing new.

**Jumping Worms:** Nothing new. Susannah has reached out to Annise Dobson as a guest speaker for spring 2025. The NCC will create a list of nurseries that distribute worm free mulch.

**Action Item:** Susannah to continue to pursue such a presentation.

**Beech leaf disease:** Nothing new.

**Action Item:** Susannah to contact Dr. Bob Marra.

**Mapping and removal of invasive plants:** Becky is working with the HVA to learn how mapping can aid in the removal of Invasive plants along water ways.

**Action Item:** Becky setting in motion an information and training session for road crews of Norfolk and neighboring towns to the east of us about best practices to reduce the spread of invasives and control infestations.

**Scenic Road designation:** Nothing new. Preserve and protect native wildlife through the state Scenic Road Designation program. Westside Road will be pursued for designation.

**Action Item:** Susannah with input from Shelley to start the process.

**Beaver dam protection:** Town road crews have used heavy equipment on private property without permission. This is a violation of Inland Wetlands Agency policy.

**Action Item:** NCC to reach out to Wetlands to discuss the idea of a more beaver friendly approach to road management.

**2024 Activities:**

Jumping Worm presentation: with Dr. Annise Dobson from Yale School of the Environment - TBA

***New Business***

Possible public presentation by a speaker from Beyond Plastics, an organization focusing on the real threats of plastics and how to reduce their use.

**Action Item:** Susannah to look into this.

**Add additional members to the NCC:** It was proposed that the commission be increased from 7 to 9 members.

**Action Item:** John to look into what the process would be.

**Manor House Inn expansion:** New paving may increase run off and adversely affect wetland soils.

**Action Item:** Susannah to write a letter to P&Z. The NCC voted unanimously to approve the writing of the letter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by Bill Ticineto December 12, 2024 *Bill Ticineto*