

Minutes
Norfolk Conservation Commission
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Regular Meeting
In Person at the HUB
June 10, 2024



Present: Susannah Wood, Libby Borden, John Anderson, Nash Pradhan, Bill Ticineto.
Shelley Harms tried to connect by zoom from out of town but zoom was not working.

Public Guest: Becky Eaton.

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Correspondence: None.

Review and approve minutes of last meeting: May minutes approved.

Budget and expenses: Sales of the NRI has generated \$270.

Native seeds to be purchased for remediation of disturbed road sides.

Public Comment: None

Road Salt Testing: Ongoing.

North Colebrook Road: On May 25th all visible knotweed was removed.

Action Item: Susannah to continue monitoring knotweed.

Composting program: Nothing new. Jeanne Jones is researching community composting. Jennifer Almquist is researching solar-powered composting.

Action Item: Susannah to contact Jeanne and Jennifer.

Invite Tree warden to attend an NCC meeting:

Action Item: Libby to contact tree warden

Wetlands Enforcement Officer: Nothing new. The NCC would like to meet with new WEO, one concern is that pre-existing violations will be re-mediated.

Action Item: Susannah and John to contact the new WEO.

Solar Field Development: Open areas to be planted with natives.

Action Item: John to contact the new development company.

Maple ave tree replacement: Nash to recommend tree varieties before planting begins this fall.

NCC self promotion: Invite other Commission & Committee members to meetings. Use social media to promote events and campaigns.

Action Item: Shelley, Susannah, Bill and Becky to continue posting.

NCC Invasive Removal Team: Organize a group of volunteers to remove invasive plants. Coordinate with the Land Trust, GMF etc. Ongoing.

Replanting 10 Station Place: The area is private property.

Action Item: Nash and Susannah to contact Colleen Hellerman.

Friends of the City Meadow: A new project manager is being reviewed.
Action Item: Libby to attend meeting.

Light pollution: Nothing new. NCC will draft a letter to P&Z. Reference NRI.
Action Item: Susannah to send letter to P&Z.

NRI section of the month in HUB email calendar: This program should start in November.
Action Item: Bill will contact the HUB.

2024 Activities:

Conservation Commission Spring Series Events:

Friday night on the Green: GMF and NCC June 21st Activities - GMF - Identify trees in the green challenge. NCC - Plant exchange, Lindera Nursery plant sale, invasive table.

Moth Night: In development.

New Business

Jumping Worms:

These invasive worms from Asia are spreading in town along Maple Ave. and maybe elsewhere in town. Susannah is working on publicizing the issue through Norfolk Now and on an alert to landscape businesses. She will approach other conservation groups in town in hopes of getting them to join as signatories on the alert to give it more weight.

Norfolk Invasive Plant Remediation: Roadside property has become a corridor for invasive plants. NLT has funding for invasive removal that has not been used. Commission proposes tackling both Japanese Knotweed on Mountain Road and invasives bordering the Botelle wet meadow.
Action Item: All members to seek out professionals who could do invasive work

CT State Invasive Banned Plants: The list has been expanded for 2024.

Special Meeting of Norfolk Conservation Organizations:

There will be a second meeting of The Land Trust, Rails To Trails, Conservation Commission, Great Mountain Forest, Church Green Team and Aton Forest. The goal is to encourage synergy between groups, facilitated by Cheryl Heller.

Action Item: Susannah will attend for the commission.

Rails to Trails: Rails to Trails has requested recommendations for planting and environmental concerns.

Action Item: Nash and John to contact.

A motion was put forth to propose a new member to the NCC for appointment by Matt Riiska: Susannah Wood proposed that Becky Eaton be put forward to fill the existing Alternate slot. The vote to accept the nomination was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Submitted by Bill Ticineto June 11, 2024 Bill Ticineto