

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



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

Public Guest: None.

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

Correspondence: None.

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

Budget and expenses: No Changes.

Road Salt Testing: September results will be ready for the October meeting.

North Colebrook Road: As the land where the dumping and invasives occur belong to Aton Forest, further action is now in the hands of Aton Forest and Billy Gridley with commission support.

Action Item: Susannah and Billy Gridley to contact town authorities.

Composting program: Jennifer Almquist wants to promote community composting. She wants to organize a presentation at the HUB by Jennifer Heaton-Jones, a representative of the Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority, to speak about solar-powered composting. The commission is happy to co-sponsor it.

Zoning Enforcement Officer: Stacey Sefcik has just taken up the position.

Action Item: Susannah to contact about setting up a meeting with her.

Solar Field Development: John has been navigating the hierarchy of the project and has spoken with the site manager.

Action Item: John to continue reaching out about the planting plan.

NCC self-promotion: Balance images of invasive removal with protected native habitats and also our native wildflowers and other species.

Action Item: NCC members to continue sending images to Becky for posting.

NCC Invasive Removal Team: The list of volunteers is expanding.

Action Item: Becky to continue posting.

Action Item: Seeding with Annual Ryegrass should follow removal that bares large areas of ground.

Replanting 10 Station Place with pollinator plants: A planting design will be proposed for approval by Colleen Hellerman.

Action Item: Nash and Susannah to meet to develop planting plan.

Friends of the City Meadow: A plan for replanting with natives is being developed. Current costs are too high. Libby expects amount of initial planting will be reduced to cut back on the proposed cost, which is too high.

Light pollution: Susannah submitted a letter to the P&Z on behalf of the commission asking the P&Z to undertake an audit and survey of the town lighting with an eye to reducing light pollution.

Action Item: Susannah to contact appropriate groups.

NRI chapter of the month - HUB email: The program will start in November.

Action Item: John and Bill working on content.

Special Meeting of Norfolk Conservation Groups:

A series of environmental programs to engage kids and residents is being developed. The goal is to raise awareness of both the beauty and challenges of our local environment. It will begin on April 25th and continue through the spring. The program is seeking speakers, activities and funding.

Action Item: Susannah, Libby and Shelley will work with Cheryl Heller and keep the commission informed.

Rails to Trails: Nothing new. The NCC has recommended that trail personnel complete a shrub ID workshop.

Action Item: Nash and John to follow up.

Jumping Worms: Susannah has reached out to Annise Dobson as a guest speaker but has not heard back yet.

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

Beech leaf disease: Susannah and Wiley Wood are doing a tree trunk application of a phosphite product as advised by Dr. Robert Marra in order to preserve some intraspecies diversity.

Action Item: Susannah to monitor and report back.

Stilt Grass: Groups have been organizing to remove Japanese Stiltgrass on multiple roadsides.

Action Item: NCC members to continue removal.

Action Item: Becky to continue posting on Facebook.

Purple Loosestrife: Removal of flowers/seeds on roadsides.

Action Item: NCC members to continue removal.

Town Hall tree maintenance: Maple saplings have been injured by lawn care equipment.

Action Item: Nash to contact Matt with advice to promote better tree management .

2024 Activities:

Moth Night with GMF: August 31st was a success, a spring event will be scheduled.

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

Dark Skies and Migration: October 3rd, 6PM to 7:30, at the American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St, Winsted.

New Business

Pesticide Application: The NCC would like to know who is licensed to use pesticides locally.

Mapping and removal of invasive plants: Becky has been doing research on how other communities have been successful at invasive plant remediation.

Action Item: Becky to continue with input from John, Nash, and Susannah and anyone else!

CIPWIG Symposium: October 29th at Storrs.

For a discount sign up before Sept 20th.

<https://cipwg.uconn.edu>

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Submitted by Bill Ticineto September 16, 2024

Bill Ticineto