

Minutes
Norfolk Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 552 Norfolk CT 06058
conservationcommission@norfolkct.org

Special Meeting
In Person at the HUB
October 21, 2024



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

Public Guest: None.

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

Correspondence: Eversource sent a notice and poster about native plants and trees suitable for planting near utility lines.

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

Budget and expenses: The commission approved the purchase of two invasive weed removal tools. The estimated price for two is \$450.

Action Item: Bill to purchase and consult with Town hall regarding public access to check out the tools.

1. Road Salt Testing: September results were mostly low. Kelly swamp, North Colebrook Road, Tobey Brook and Norfolk Brook readings are high.

Action Item: Susannah to contact Matt regarding the application of road salt in streams with higher readings.

2. North Colebrook Road: Responsibility and legal rights of Aton Forest clean up needs to be determined.

Action Item: Billy Gridley to contact town authorities. Susannah to follow up with him.

3. Composting program: Nothing New. 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.

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

Action Item: Susannah to set up a meeting and bring her an NRI.

5. Solar Field Development: Seeding with grass will begin in spring. It's unclear who will be doing ongoing maintenance.

Action Item: John to continue reaching out about pollinator planting.

6. NCC self-promotion: NCC to continue publicizing projects.

Action Item: Shelley will contact Alec Windon to contribute articles.

7. NCC Invasive Removal Team: The NCC has invited the public to help remove invasive Buckthorn in Barbour Woods on October 27th, 11AM.

Action Item: Becky to continue posting.

8. Replanting 10 Station Place with pollinator plants: Replanting with natives has been proposed. Nash will create a plan for spring planting.

Action Item: Susannah to contact Colleen Hellerman about the planting plan and any reaction to the idea from the Community Association.

9. Friends of the City Meadow: Planting with natives to start this October.

10. Light pollution: Nothing New. 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 follow up on progress.

11. NRI chapter of the month: Links to the NRI online will be promoted via the HUB and other social media. This is scheduled to start in November.

Action Item: John and Bill working on content.

12. Special Meeting of Norfolk Conservation Groups:

In order to avoid conflict and expand attendance the group is working to share event information using Google Calendar.

Progress is ongoing for The Earth Forum - a series of environmental programs to engage kids and residents. The goal is to raise awareness of both the beauty and challenges of our local environment. It will begin on April 25th > 27th. Speakers and activities are being coordinated. The budget is currently around \$600 and is not an obstacle.

A Zoom meeting about the on-line Green Maps program was given by Wendy Brawer. It was attended by Cheryl Heller, Libby, Becky and Bill. The intention is to map invasive plants and track their remediation.

The next meeting date and location is TBD.

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

13. Rails to Trails: Public promotion of Rails to Trails to expand. The NCC has recommended that trail personnel complete a shrub ID workshop.

Action Item: Nash and John to follow up.

14. Jumping Worms: Susannah has reached out to Annise Dobson as a guest speaker for spring 2025.

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

15. Beech leaf disease: Susannah and Wiley Wood are treating trees with applications of a phosphite product as advised by Dr. Robert Marra in order to preserve some intra-species diversity.

Action Item: Susannah to monitor and report back.

16. Stilt Grass: The NCC has completed this season's removal on multiple roadsides. Education of preventive maintenance to be discussed.

Action Item: Next year NCC members will begin removal earlier in the season.

Action Item: Invite Matt to the January NCC meeting to discuss.

17. Town Hall tree maintenance: The injured Maple saplings have been attended to.

18. Licensed Pesticide Applicators: A member of the NCC will become licensed for pesticide use.

Action Item: Bill to contact appropriate group to become licensed.

19. Mapping and removal of invasive plants: Norfolk is a headwater for local rivers and needs to re mediate Knotweed and Phragmites.

Action Item: Becky is working with the HVA.

20. CIPWIG Symposium: October 29th at Storrs. Multiple members will attend.

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

Scenic Road designation: The NCC would like to make it more widely known that protection of natural roadsides can be implemented through the Scenic Roadside Designation.

Beaver Dam protection: The Road Crew removed a beaver dam on Lovers Lane without asking permission. Commission wants join with the land trust and Inland Wetlands in advocating guidelines that would call for first looking for non-lethal and non-destructive methods and would prevent the road crew from going on private property without permission of the owner.

Action Item: The commission to pursue this with Matt after consulting with NLT and Wetlands.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Submitted by Bill Ticineto October 29, 2024 *Bill Ticineto*