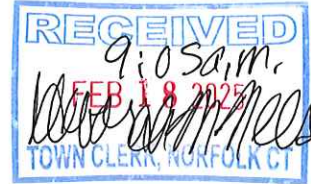


Minutes  
Norfolk Conservation Commission  
P.O. Box 552 Norfolk CT 06058  
conservationcommission@norfolkct.org

Regular Meeting  
In Person at the HUB  
February 10, 2025



**Present:** Susannah Wood, Libby Borden, Becky Eaton, John Anderson, Nash Pradhan, Bill Ticineto. (Shelley Harms attempted to join via Zoom, but, as the audio did not work, she withdrew.)

**Public Guest:** Andrea Gomes (representing Hinckley Allen) and Bob Gilchrest (representing Allied Engineering) on behalf of Three Stewards Real Estate/69 Maple Ave. Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Correspondence:** None.

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

**Budget and expenses:** Fund reallocation of categories was discussed. Action Item: Susannah to create a new item on the NCC budget for Events. This item will remove funds from Tree Replacement for this year.

**69 Maple Avenue Modification:** Susannah reminded all present that both Bill Ticineto and Becky Eaton would not participate in the discussion or in any vote on this matter. Gomes and Gilchrest distributed revised diagrams with new evergreen hedge along Maple Avenue. They also noted that path paving is "pervious" gravel and that the two cabins will be set on piers.

**Motion:** Susannah put forth a motion to delay further discussions until P&Z has made a ruling. The motion was seconded by Libby and approved by Susannah, Libby, John, and Nash.

**Road Salt Testing:** No significant levels recorded of Nitrites, Nitrates or Phosphorous. Chloride levels were low enough not to raise any red flags but present in greater amounts. It's important to keep levels as low as possible since Norfolk waterways feed into the Housatonic River and the Farmington River. "Before" and "after" testing of the golf course will be considered.

**North Colebrook Road:** Nothing new. 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.

**Wetlands/Zoning Enforcement Officer:** It was decided that we wait until after the Manor House matter has been decided to invite Stacey to one of our meetings.

**Solar Field Development:** Seeding was done both inside and outside of the fenced area in October. Looking forward to seeing what grows this spring.  
Action Item: John will monitor the planting.

**NCC self-promotion:** A spring campaign to encourage residents to remove invasive plants was discussed. The concept of a Garlic Mustard removal contest will be explored.

**Action Item:** NCC members will look into the logistics.

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

**NCC Invasive Removal Team:** "Invasive of the month" program is in development.

Bill to give HUB talk in early May. 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.

**Planting 10 Station Place:** Ongoing effort to add native plants to the existing daylily bed.

**Action item:** Susannah to meet with Colleen Hellerman tomorrow to discuss.

**Friends of the City Meadow:** To finish the work planned in 2025 the committee is focusing on fundraising.

**Action Item:** Libby to continue keeping us up to date..

**Light pollution:** Susannah reported that the Foundation for Norfolk Living looked into replacing the bulbs on the parking lot lights at the units on Shepard Rd but found they would have to replace the whole lighting unit and the cost would be more that it can take on right now.

**Action Item:** Susannah to follow up with electrician Sean Finney about the bulb issue and to find out the make and model of the fixtures.

**Action Item:** Approaching the manager at Mountainside is on hold for the moment until we know more.

**NRI chapter of the month:** Highlighting Norfolk geology for WIN was suggested.

**Action Item:** Susannah to send a draft to John and Bill.

**Meeting of Norfolk Conservation Consortium:** The series of environmental programs to engage kids and residents is in progress. The goal is to raise awareness of both the beauty and challenges of our local environment. A series of events will be held on April 25-27th with a town-wide Bioblitz planned for sometime later in the spring.

**Rails to Trails:** John will lead a WIN hike along the railroad right of way to Stony Lonesome trail. Begins 10AM Saturday. Details on the WIN website.

**Jumping Worms:** Annise Dobson will give a talk at the HUB on March 26th from 5 to 6:30. The NCC will create a list of nurseries that distribute worm free mulch.

**Beech leaf disease:** Dr. Bob Marra is reviewing data from his collecting trip to Japan.

**Action Item:** Susannah will keep a lookout for any developments on this disease.

**Mapping and removal of invasive plants:** Becky is continuing her work on mapping invasives in town via the same mapping program HVA is using. Becky announced that Christian Allen will present an information session on best management practices for town crews on February 24, 7PM via Zoom. The presentation is during a regular meeting of the Farmington Valley Watershed Assoc. Subsequent hands-on workshops for town crews to follow.

**Action Item:** Becky and Susannah to talk to Matt and urge him and other town officers to attend. Becky to send out a link to the meeting.

**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:** NCC to find out what a survey of problem areas with an eye to non-lethal management might cost.

**Action Item:** Susannah to approach the Beaver Institute

#### **2024 Activities:**

Jumping Worm presentation: Dr. Annise Dobson from Yale School of the Environment. At the HUB on March 26th from 5 to 6:30

#### **New Business**

WIN Weekend February 22 & 23: NCC Booth at the HUB, Saturday and Sunday. The goal is to promote the NCC, the NRI and invasive plant removal.

**Action Item:** Becky to coordinate with Sue Frisch and to acquire copies of invasive plant booklet. Action Item: NCC members should send their time availability to Becky. *Just a reminder - Also on WIN Weekend -Leila Philip, author of Beaverland. At the Library, February 22 at 2:00 - 3:30.*

**Guest Speaker Sarah Jayne:** The NCC would like to have the author of "Nature's Action Guide: How to Support Biodiversity and Your Local Ecosystem" give a talk.

**Action Item:** Becky to look into ways to reduce the cost, possibly coordinating with other town commissions and venues.

**Beyond Plastics Presentation:** 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.

**Review Procedural Guidelines:** The NCC should include meeting and procedure guide-lines in handbook for members.

**Action Item:** John to formalize information on meeting procedures. Susannah to distribute draft of handbook for review.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Submitted by Bill Ticineto February 12, 2025

Bill Ticineto