

Minutes
Norfolk Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 552 Norfolk CT 06058
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Regular Meeting
In Person at the HUB
March 10, 2025



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

Public Guest: None.

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

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

Correspondence: None.

Budget and expenses: See Below.

Public comment: None.

Road Salt Testing: Has not begun.

North Colebrook Road: Billy Gridley will be in charge of invasive plant removal at Aton Forest properties.

NCC self-promotion: Layouts for the Invasive of the Month campaign were reviewed.

Action Item: Bill to submit ads to the Norfolk Now and other postings.

NCC Invasive Removal Team: Nothing New.

Planting 10 Station Place: Development is going forward. Maintenance of the garden to be determined.

Action item: Nash to provide Colleen Hellerman with a planting plan.

Friends of the City Meadow: Libby would like water testing to be done.

Action Item: Libby to continue fundraising.

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 contact The Dark Sky Initiative about solutions.

NRI chapter of the month: Susannah sent a draft to NCC members and is awaiting comments.

Action Item: NCC members to reply.

Norfolk Conservation Consortium: The group meets on the third Tuesday of the month at the HUB. A series of events will be held on April 25-27th.

Action Item: Susannah to ask selectmen's office for a check to go to the NLT with Earth Forum in the memo line.

Rails to Trails recommendations: Waiting for final approval from the State which will be followed by bids. Work could start this spring/summer.
NCC to advise on invasive removal.

Action Item: John to continue coordinating.

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.

Motion: Susannah put forth a motion to give Annise a \$200 honorarium for her talk.

The motion was seconded by Shelley and approved by all members.

Beech leaf disease: Tabled until further developments arise.

Mapping and removal of invasive plants: Becky is continuing her work on mapping invasive plants in town using the same mapping program that the HVA is using.

Action Item: Becky to continue working with Stacey at the HVA.

Scenic Road designation: Nothing new. Preserve and protect habitat and scenic resources through the town ordinance. Westside Road will be pursued for designation.

Action Item: Susannah and Shelley to research Scenic Road ordinance.

Beaver Control: A previous proposal for Lovers Lane by the Beaver Institute was never pursued. Matt did not remember the particulars but sited the location near the tennis court as currently the worst problem. Non-lethal control by the Beaver Institute to be pursued.

Action Item: Susannah to approach the Beaver Institute.

Motion: Susannah put forth a motion to pay the Beaver institution to visit and assess the situation.

The motion was seconded by Shelley and approved by all members.

Add additional members to the NCC: Not deemed necessary. Tabled.

Review Procedural Guidelines: Susannah will distribute procedural guide-lines at the April 14th NCC meeting.

Action Item: Susannah to prepare the handbook for review.

Guest Speaker Sarah Jayne: Does not seem feasible at present financially.

Action Item: Becky to look into other speakers to address turning conventional gardens into native habitats.

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 waiting to hear back from their speaker bureau.

WIN Weekend: A booth at the HUB promoted the NCC, sale of the NRI and invasive plant removal. A winner for the free drawing for invasive plant removal was awarded.

Action Item: Becky and Bill to promote more invasive removal through another drawing, maybe over Earth Forum weekend.

Climate Core: A student project using information from the NRI will highlight the effect climate change has on critical habitats. It will be presented at the HUB and on Zoom April 21st.

Action Item: John to coordinate promotions.

Action Item: Susannah to check time at the HUB.

CAWS Less Meyerhoff wetland scientist Grants: Explore funding from grant programs to help fund large residential invasive plant removal.

Larry Weiner Zoom Video:

Video about fighting invasive plants with native pollinators.

Action Item: John to check screening availability and timing.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Submitted by Bill Ticineto March 14, 2025

Bill Ticineto