

Minutes
Norfolk Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 552 Norfolk CT 06058
conservationcommission@norfolkct.org
Regular Meeting
In Person at the HUB
April 14, 2025



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

Public Guest: None.

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

Correspondence: None.

Budget and expenses: \$110 from sales of the NRI was deposited to Town Hall.

Public comment: None.

Road Salt Testing: Will start this April.

North Colebrook Road: This issue is being dropped from our agenda as Billy Gridley is in charge of invasive plant removal at Aton Forest properties.

NCC self-promotion: Becky has been working with Sue Frisch to promote the NCC and NRI on the Norfolk town website.

Action Item: NCC members to submit content/photos to be posted.

- The NCC will have a table at the HUB for the Norfolk Earth Forum event.

Action Item: Becky and Bill to coordinate both setup.

NCC Invasive Removal Team: The Land Trust has money for invasive removal on its properties and wants to get input from the commission on what areas to target.

- Promote public participation for invasive removal.

Action Item: Becky and Bill to work on recruitment.

- Mapping of invasive plants will help focus removal efforts.

Action Item: Becky working with Stacey at HVA to create maps.

- Phragmites removal at Woodcreek and Lovers lane.

Action Item: Becky to call Pete Picone to strategize.

Planting 10 Station Place: Budget needs to be determined.

Action item: Nash to provide Susannah with a budget for this year to discuss with Colleen Hellerman.

Friends of the City Meadow: Planning and fund raising are ongoing.

Action Item: Libby to continue fundraising.

Light pollution: The replacement for parking lot lighting for the units on Shepard Rd is currently too expensive. The commission to pursue working with P&Z to create a lighting survey. Refer to NRI recommendations.

Action Item: Susannah to continue working with Leo Smith of Dark Sky International on plans for lighting survey.

NRI chapter of the month: Concept needs development. Discussion ensued about taking NRI recommendations to the P&Z as part of their planning function.

Action Item: NCC members to explore timing and subjects for NRI chapters of the month.

Action Item: NCC members to review NRI recommendations.

Norfolk Conservation Consortium: Events will be held on April 25-27th. Additional funding may be necessary.

Action Item: Waiting for clarity on funding resources.

Rails to Trails recommendations: Permitting is ongoing, construction bids will follow.

Action Item: John to continue coordinating.

Jumping worms: The talk by Annise Dobson was well attended.

Action Item: NCC members to make available information on safe mulch suppliers.

Beech leaf disease: Waiting to see the condition of trees this spring.

Scenic Road designation: Susannah has decided she cannot take on this project at this time.

Beaver Control: The NCC has requested the Beaver Institute to survey two sites – the town tennis court area and the intersection of Mountain and Westside Rds — where beaver flooding is causing problems.

Action Item: Susannah will let the commission know when the assessment will be.

Review Procedural Guidelines: Susannah distributed procedural guide-lines to NCC members. They will be reviewed at the May 12th meeting.

Action Item: NCC members to review guidelines.

Beyond Plastics Presentation: Looking for an alternate speaker

Action Item: John will research.

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 6PM. NCC has invited other relevant town Commission & Committee members.

Action Item: John to coordinate promotions.

Action Item: Bill to coordinate setup/link at the HUB.

CAWS Less Meyerhoff wetland scientist Grants: There is a small grant program with funds available for various projects. NCC should keep this in mind for the future.

Larry Weiner Zoom Video: about fighting invasive plants with native pollinators.

Action Item: John to check screening availability and timing.

GMF & NCC Bittersweet to Baskets event: Despite the bad weather five volunteers helped remove Bittersweet vine. The date for the basket creation is TBD by Vicki at GMF.

Action Item: Bill to contact Vicki about a "Willow to Baskets" event.

NCC Membership at the Hub: The NCC membership cost is covered by the EDC.

Reports on conferences attended: After attending conferences members are asked to report back to everyone on what they found useful or interesting.

2024 Activities:

NORFOLK EARTH FORUM 2025: A booth at the HUB will promote the NCC, sale of the NRI and invasive plant removal. There will be another drawing for an invasives visit from Becky and Bill

HUB Talk - How to Identify and Remove Invasive Plants: Sunday May 10th 2:00 > 3:00

Friday Night on the Green: June 27th co-sponsor GMF: Mandalas

Moth Night: June 21st/ rain date June 28th co-sponsor GMF – presenter: Ray Simpson

New Business

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by Bill Ticineto April 15, 2025

Bill Ticineto