

Minutes  
Norfolk Conservation Commission  
P.O. Box 552 Norfolk CT 06058  
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Regular Meeting  
In Person at the HUB  
July 14, 2025



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

**Public Guest:** Mark Lenz, Billy Gridley.

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

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

**Correspondence:** Shelley Harms has written a letter to be sent by the NCC to Matt, the Board of Selectmen, Planning and Zoning, the ZEO and Troy, regarding tree cutting on scenic roads. The NCC is concerned that recent tree cutting has not followed guidelines.

**Motion:** Susannah put forth a motion to send the letter on behalf of the NCC. Motion Seconded by Shelley. The Motion was unanimously approved.

**Correspondence:** Shelley Harms will continue to distribute a previously NCC approved letter to specific business property owners to encourage removal of invasive plants on their properties.

**Budget and expenses:**

The new budget report will be distributed via email this week.

**Public comment:** Billy Gridley proposed a joint grant application (The Town of Norfolk and Aton Forest) to fund maintenance on town rights of way adjacent to Aton Forest. Jurisdiction over local roads and their boundaries needs to be defined.

**Action Item:** Billy Gridley will contact ZEO Stacey Sefcik for clarity.

**Review procedural guidelines:** Susannah distributed a third revision of guidelines for review before printing and distribution.

**Action Item:** All NCC members are to review and submit comments.

**Norfolk Conservation Consortium:** The group has been renamed the "Norfolk Nature Alliance". Meetings will continue to be on the 3rd Tues. of the month at 1:30 pm in the Hub.

**NCC seed funding:** Susannah and Becky spoke with Matt about targeting Doolittle Drive along the area near the Fire Pond. Monitoring of Lovers Lane for Japanese stilt grass should occur this summer.

**Action Item:** Becky to follow up with Troy.

**Road salt testing:** Nothing yet.

**Light pollution:** Susannah spoke to Kate Johnson who confirmed that lighting on the houses will comply with current regulations as to shielding. Susannah urged that the Foundation for Norfolk Living will recommend that homeowners use 3000 Kelvin bulbs. There will not be any street lights.

**Beavers:** Billy Gridley may pursue beaver deceivers at Kelly swamp and was glad to know a grant could be available through the Beaver Institute.

**Beech leaf disease:** Susannah is continuing treatment to her own trees per recommendation of Dr. Robert Marra of the CT Experimental Station.

**Replanting 10 Station Place:** Ongoing maintenance of a replanted garden can not be resolved. The project has been shelved.

**Action item:** Susannah to inform Colleen Hellerman of our decision not to proceed.

**Friends of the City Meadow:** Progress has been slow, invasive removal and native planting continues.

**Rails to Trails recommendations:** Nothing new. Permitting is ongoing, construction bids will follow.

**Action Item:** John to continue following.

**Mapping and removal of invasive plants:** Becky has been working with the Northwest Conservation District to organize a meeting of 13 local town road crews, it is not open to the public. Tom Zetterstrom will lead a talk about the problem and solution of invasive plant spread. The date is July 29. The talk will be at the Winsted Public Works Garage.

**NCC self-promotion:** The August Invasive of the Month will be Japanese Stiltgrass. For WIN weekend the NCC will have a booth at the HUB.

The NCC hopes to have more plant exchanges at Friday Night on the Green events. Invasive removal at Botelle school could be a future volunteer public event.

**Action Item:** Bill and Becky to coordinate WIN with Sue and Laura at the HUB.

**NCC invasive removal team:** A new addition - Mark Lenz would like to work with the NCC at removing invasive plants.

Schedule August Buckthorn Posse at Barbour woods.

**Guest speaker on Plastics Problem:** Susannah followed up a lead from Martha Klein but it doesn't seem right for our purposes.

**Action Item:** Susannah to continue looking.

**Larry Weiner Zoom video:** About fighting invasive plants with native pollinators.

**Eric Kiviat:** Lecture about Phragmites, summer date is TBD.

**Action Item:** John to check screening availability and timing.

**Climate Core:** The students need a project for their next semester. The NCC can propose an idea that they can study.

**Jumping worms:** Nothing new.

**Speaker Honoriums:** Susannah proposed we set a standard Speaker Honorium.

**Motion:** Susannah put forth a motion that \$200 is the Speaker Honorium. Motion Seconded by Bill. The Motion was unanimously approved.

**2025 Activities:**

**Weekend In Norfolk:** August 1st > August 3rd. HUB invasive booth.

New Business

**Affordable Housing invasive problem:** Open areas have become covered with Mugwort and other invasive plants

**Action Item:** Susannah and Becky to pursue possibilities for control.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Submitted by Bill Ticineto July 18, 2025

*Bill Ticineto*