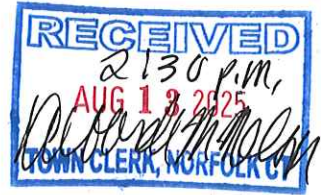


Minutes
Norfolk Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 552 Norfolk CT 06058
conservationcommission@norfolkct.org

Regular Meeting
In Person at the HUB
August 11, 2025



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

Public Guest: None.

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

Correspondence: Shelley Harms contacted Frontier Communications and New England Miniature Ball Co. (NEMB) regarding invasive plants growing on their properties. NEMB responded by removing a massive Winged Euonymus from their property. Conservation Commission members commended NEMB for removing the euonymus. Interaction with other companies is ongoing. Shelley has a list of new property owners to contact. Becky will contact Center Cemetery regarding their Knotweed problem.

Budget and expenses: Nothing new, awaiting an update from Town Hall.

Review procedural guidelines: The Procedural Guideline Handbook was distributed. The Connecticut Conservation Commissions Handbook will be emailed to members for reference.

Joint Town/Landowner Invasives Control: Becky and Billy Gridley met with ZEO Stacey Sefcik regarding landscape maintenance over local roads and their boundaries. It was suggested that Best Management Guidelines Recommendations be distributed to the Zoning & Wetlands Enforcement Officer, Planning & Zoning and road crews. Stacey suggested looking at towns that have set up such recommendations, including the town of Warren.

Affordable Housing Invasive Plant Problem: Wiley Wood (from P&Z) attended a tour of the development including landscaping that has become overrun with Knotweed and Mugwort. Funding for landscaping and remediation is in progress. Mugwort should be attended to before it goes to seed this month.

Action Item: Susannah to talk to Leila Javitch.

Norfolk Nature Alliance: The group has proposed Norfolk becomes a "pollinator pathway", this could include adopting a "No Mow May" policy.

NCC seed funding: Susannah is researching groups who can donate to the seed funding. The tree work on Lovers Lane has left open areas that should be seeded with Annual Rye grass.

Action Item: Susannah to continue funding research.

Action Item: Susannah to apply annual rye grass seed to Lovers Lane with volunteers from the commission when weather is right.

Road salt testing: Chloride levels are low. Susannah will meet with Vicki Kelly to learn more about the implications of test results.

Action Item: Susannah to continue research.

Light pollution abatement: Susannah is hoping to arrange for Leo Smith from Dark Sky Int'l (darksky.org) to address the P&Z re a town inventory of street lighting.

Action item: Susannah to talk to Wiley about getting it on the agenda.

Beavers: Billy Gridley is looking into having non-lethal beaver control on the swamp side.

Action item: Susannah will keep in touch with Billy.

Beech leaf disease: Chemical treatment of the library beech trees appears to be successful. Susannah about to do second treatment of beeches in her area.

Replanting 10 Station Place: Susannah has informed Colleen Hellerman of our decision not to proceed.

Rails to Trails recommendations: A meeting is scheduled for August 14th.

Action Item: John to continue following.

Mapping and removal of invasive plants:

The meeting with 13 local town road crews was well received. Troy does not want his crew to be active in the application of herbicides.

The NCC will offer suggestions for licensed companies to do the work. Funding is an issue.

The NCC is looking into using some of it's budget to fund the herbicide application.

This will not be an ongoing use of NCC funds but to kick start the effort.

Action Item: Becky will reach out to professionals to see if we can line up treatment this season.

Botelle School has invasive plant problems that should be attended to this summer.

Cutting and covering with tarp can halt Mugwort growth. Commission to possibly arrange a community work day to deal with the Japanese knotweed by the playground.

Action Item: Becky to contact the superintendent.

The intersection of the Blackberry River and Wood Creek River (44 & 272) has a mass of Mugwort by the side of the banks of Wood Creek where it crosses 272 that needs attention.

Action Item: Susannah will try to get back there either at the end of this week or next before the flowers go to seed.

If anyone wants to help, that would be great!

NCC self-promotion: The WIN weekend booth/plant exchange was very busy.

The September Invasive of the Month will be Japanese Knotweed.

NCC invasive removal team:

August: Mugwort at Botelle.

September: Japanese Stiltgrass in the same areas as last year - 272, Lovers Lane.

September: Buckthorn at Barbour woods.

Fall: Japanese knotweed at Botelle

Guest speaker on Plastics Problem: Nothing new.

Action Item: Susannah to continue looking.

Larry Weiner Discussions: There are upcoming webinars NCC members can attend.

Action Item: John to alert commissioners about webinar dates.

Climate Core: The NCC needs to propose a subject for spring semester. No final report has come in on last spring's project.

Action Item: John to follow up with the program administrator.

Jumping worms: They are spreading.

Action Item: Commission members are encouraged to use hot mustard/water drench to drive worms to the surface.

Worms are laying eggs now. Add one third cup of ground yellow mustard seed (Asian or Coleman's hot mustard, not Gulden's) to a gallon of water. Drench an area one-foot square. Pour half slowly over the ground, wait a few minutes, pour the rest.

While it won't hurt plants, this solution irritates the worms, making them surface.

2025 Activities:

Composting Lecture at the HUB: Educational lecture on composting and compost tea.

Action item: Nash to contact for Ashley scheduling.

New Business

The Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study: For more than six decades, scientists have used long-term monitoring, experiments, and modeling to build fundamental knowledge about the northern hardwood forests of eastern North America.

Website - <https://hubbardbrook.org>

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

The next meeting is 09/08/2025 — 6:00 PM at the HUB (In-Person/Zoom)

Submitted by Bill Ticineto August 13, 2025

Bill Ticineto