

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting on September 14, 2016

The Meeting was called to order at 6:44

I. ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners Russ Barrett, Nathaniel Miller, Ruth Ruttenberg, Jane Pekol, Pam Knox, Leslie Matthews, and Don Wallace

II. SET/ADJUST AGENDA: Added Recreation Trails Grant

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August minutes approved as written 5-0-2

v. DISCUSSION

1. Arrowwood Questions and Responses:

- Discussed recommended buffers that focus on preserving amphibians (ANR recommends minimum 600’).
- Language on the ice storm and it’s significance could be re-worked
- Northfield Mountain range needs clarification
- Male fern on Hawk Watch has been compromised by invasive species. Bringing it back to an open field would be a costly proposition. It would require clearing by a “brontosaurus” machine.
- Timber sale could possibly fund the clearing of Hawk Watch or another site for a view from the top of Paine. Something could be worked into the contract. Timber prices should be considered before we are ready for a sale. Contact would be Rose Beatty (consulting forester).
- Discussed creation of a map to designate recreational use or non-use. For example, green could be open recreation, orange for modified recreation options, and red for restricted recreational use.
- Areas with endangered plant species could be labelled sensitive areas. This is a big reason for putting the reins on trail proliferation.
- We will be having a special meeting to finalize the Town Forest Plan if needed after the October 12th meeting, possibly for the first week or final week of October. (Hold Oct. 5th or 19th) Pam will check room availability.

2. Also of Note:

- Limlaw did get contract for Winch Hill Road clearing
- Ruth will be working on an exhibit for the library on Nathan’s Eagle Scout project

3. Whetstone Property Walk

- Laura and Nathaniel will take ideas from the walk to the Town Planning Commission

- Most of the lower part is zoned industrial and remainder to be low-density residential. The owner (Bean) doesn't wish to subdivide. As this is a dual-goal project with VHCB it depends on sub-dividing. We discussed our potential role in this along with the Vermont Land Trust.
 - Flood plain is an issue there, although the zoning is already in place
 - Potential for a right-of-way easement for recreation, potentially a class 4 road which could be gated
4. Labor Day Table was very active and there was a tour of the Water Street Park area at 9:30. People enjoyed the river flume demonstrations.
 5. Meeting with Danielle Fitzko regarding grants
 - Talked about grant money for back roads tourism, scenic covered bridges drive
 - Need to meet with Jeff Schultz and Selectboard to inform them of the opportunities
 6. Trails Grant
 - Discussed puncheons and bridge changes for this \$11,000 grant
 - Work will be done in the spring

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Jane Pekol. These minutes are subject to changes and approval at the next regular meeting, but are substantially correct.