

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, March 8, 2017
6:30 P.M. Northfield Municipal Building

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Ruth Ruttenberg, Laura Hill-Eubanks, Jane Pekol, Pam Knox

II. SET/ADJUST AGENDA

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 8, 2017

Tabled until April meeting due to lack of quorum

V. DISCUSSION

1. Town Forest Stewardship Plan

Edits are done, Leslie is working on getting maps into the one document. We looked at setting a date for the next step—public meeting. First send to Selectboard and post publicly (link from Google Drive), next have public forum for feedback (week night). The horse-back riding rules for the TF have been asked about. There has not historically been too much use of the trails for this purpose. We talked about amending the Stewardship Committee framework to allow for this user group. Thursday, April 20th was suggested for an evening public forum meeting.

Spring time closure of trails should happen soon due to mud season and the damage it can cause to the trails and forest.

2. Zoning Regulations (Tabled for now)

3. Town Meeting

Friends of the Winooski won their appropriation, and Conservation Fund passed overwhelmingly! Laura gave a great presentation. The Back Roads grant was well received by the public.

4. Conservation Fund

There will be an account set up at the Town. Anytime we get grant funds, they will now go into this fund. We will thank Northfield for the vote via Facebook and Front Porch Forum. The TDS property could be our first project for fundraising. Laura will also follow up with the Town.

Friends of the Winooski and the school Art Department paired up on decorated rain barrels. Pam wonders if we could do this project ourselves. People may donate rain barrels. This could be a good fundraiser. Mini-grants could potentially be used for this purpose.

5. Green Mt. Conservation Camp applications

No completed applications have come back as of yet. Pam will post on Front Porch Forum. Check with Scout troops.

6. School Forest Vermont Land Trust easement

Protections for the School Forest once we merge with Williamstown. Pam talked to Peter Evans who is on the School Board. He believes the school owns the parcel. Russ was part of

doing the Forestry plan. Funds from logging go to the school. We will talk to the Superintendent Laurie Gosslens about getting an easement.

7. NCC Winter Carnival Hike

10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Meet at school parking lot. It will be a high of 8 degrees—dress accordingly!

8. Recreation Trails and Backroads Grant

Russ will be back 5/9. VYCC starts in June and we will be early on the roster. We don't have enough money to do 2 weeks. We can use the balance of the extra funds (from the switch from bridges to puncheons) after one week to do further projects on the forest with a different group. Need to spend the money before that grant year ends, may be August 31. Water bars could be a possibility.

Back roads: Ruth got the MOU from Joanne at Forest, Parks, and Recreation. MOU looks good, Ruth thinks we should talk about reducing costs in the long-run and emphasize the economics of this. Report may need to look at dust and erosion, and whether the cutting causes more of these problems and therefore more maintenance cost. MOU is clear that Town needs to offer up some maps of right-of-way and set-backs (some of which has been done) and the state will offer the consultants who will do an inventory and will work with us for an action plan. We need to hold a public forum on the consultants' findings. Jeff has until Monday to look at the MOU and offer any changes. We need to talk about what kind of Advisory Committee we need for this project. The cutting is contradictory to the new rules coming on water quality and stormwater run-off which will include fines.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED): None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT 8:27