

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT**  
**NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of June 24, 2022**

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. by Nigel with Ruth, Russ, Jeremy, Debbie, & David in attendance. Dave Packie joined as a member of the public.
- II. Public Participation scheduled: none
- III. Minutes of May 26, 2022 were approved on a motion by David, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruth. Jeremy abstaining, the motion passed with 5 votes.
- IV. Updates and Discussion
  - a. Town Forest Dog Rules Working Group  
This work group has not met recently but the TFSC did discuss this topic at their last meeting and would like to get moving on this effort. A person to lead the group is needed.
  - b. VOREC Grant  
The steering committee met and Debbie was appointed chair. Meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month at 6:00 with a hybrid option to attend remotely. The committee will meet Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the RFP's received for the Slate Avenue trail restoration work. Russ estimates there is less than 1 acre of invasive species near the Hawk Watch consisting of honeysuckle & buckthorn. Use of an herbicide will likely be necessary at some point in the removal process.
  - c. Town Forest Access Study Final Report  
The presentation of the final report at a Select Board meeting was not well attended by the public. Debbie will follow up with Jeff and Lydia as to whether they think additional discussion of the report is necessary.
  - d. Town Forest Stewardship Committee  
Nigel and Russ attended the recent meeting of the TFSC. With the resignations, of Lydia and Brad, this committee currently has 2 vacancies, including a chair. Membership of this committee as described in the TFS plan includes 2 NCC members. Jeremy volunteered to serve on the committee. Nigel will speak with Jeff about a FPF post to solicit another community member. The group did not think it was necessary that the chair of TFSC be an NCC member. Nigel is drafting the next agenda for this group and will run their next meeting.

- e. Tree Planting Grant  
Ruth, Russ and Debbie met to survey options for tree planting. A recommendation was sent to Jeff that the following sites be included for new trees: replace dead crab apple on Water St. across from Dog River Park, replace dead tree in front of NSB on Main St., the ball park at Northfield Falls, near Senior Center where a tree is dying, and Dog River Glen where trees have been lost. Jeff to follow up with who to contact at Dog River Glen.
  
- f. Dog River Symposium  
Ruth sent out a list of potential partners from the Agency of Natural Resources, non-profits and other Conservation Commissions that she and David have reached out to. People contacted are very interested in this event. The timing coincides with the next update of the Winooski Valley Tactical Basin Plan. Suggested topics to focus on were water quality, status of dams, recreation and river access on the Dog River. It was agreed that a Sat.-Sunday in mid-September would be a good time, taking care to consider the schedule of NU events and with an awareness of potential environmentally significant dates. Local legislators will be invited.
  
- g. Emerald Ash Borer update to Select Board  
Russ reported that an EAB trap was placed at a site on the Berlin Pond Road in Northfield. When he visited the site with a forest specialist from FPR, signs suspicious for EAB were noted. We are waiting for a confirmation on whether this is in fact EAB before a presentation to the Select Board is planned.

V. Public Participation-unscheduled none

VI. Other Business

- a. Nigel stated that as NCC also has a vacancy, he will ask Jeff to include this in a post for TFSC members.
- b. Nigel brought up the need to make closed captioning available on the platform used by the town for on-line meetings. If this is not supported on Go-to-Meeting, another platform could be used.
- c. Members were asked about their thoughts on meeting in person and after discussion it was agreed to meet at the Treehouse location behind the library.

VII. Adjournment

At 7:44 Russ made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeremy. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Zuaro