

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
Northfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of March 22, 2023

1. Roll Call: Debbie called the meeting to order at 6:06 with Russ, David, Jeremy, Mo, Ruth and Debbie in attendance.
2. No public participation (scheduled)
3. An item was added to the agenda under Discussion; election of officers.
4. Minutes of the 2-22-2023 meeting were approved, motion by David, 2nd by Jeremy. Ruth abstaining, 5 ayes.
5. Updates:
 - A. VOREC grant: Debbie reported that a contract with the consultant for the way finding system, D & K, has been signed by the town. Colin Bright has been added to the group to represent the TFSC. A site visit is scheduled for 3-23 at 3:00 p.m.
 - B. New Tree Planting Grant: The State is processing the grant paperwork but encourages groups to begin their projects. We anticipate planting in the Fall. Nigel will research who to contact for permission to plant at Dog River Glen. Other locations may be considered. Reminder: check status of trees planted in Northfield Falls to see if there is damage from snow plowing.
 - C. Town Zoning Changes Letter to Select Board: Jeremy & Colin Bright drafted a letter that was approved by Nigel, to go to the town manager with a request to have it distributed to the planning commission and consultant, with a copy to the Select Board chair. Jeremy will send a copy of the letter out to all. This letter requests that a technical correction to the zoning for the town forest (Paine Mountain and Dustin's Pasture) be made to a town forest zoning district.
6. Discussion:
 - A. The Slate Brook site visit is scheduled for March 31st with Debbie, Staci Pomeroy, river scientist, and Keith Fritschie, basin planner, and Brian Voigt, CVRPC. Jeremy suggested including NU in this visit. Russ pointed out a black pipe that should be looked at.
 - B. Town Forest Stewardship Committee: Jeremy reported that the group did not meet this month as many members attended the Vermont council on Rural Development forums.

- C. Protections for the Town Forest: This item was tabled until the next meeting of NCC on April 26th at which the specifics of the joint meeting will be determined. The group wants to hold off on contacting resources regarding a conservation easement. Nigel and Jeremy will work on the agenda for the joint meeting.
 - D. Election of Officers: Ruth moved, 2nd by Jeremy, to elect a slate of officers consisting of Nigel Hicks Tibbles, chair, David Mears, Vice Chair and Debbie Zuaro, secretary. Unanimous.
7. Public participation unscheduled: none
8. Other business:
- A. Russ would like to tackle boundary marking of Dustin's pasture. Jeremy volunteered to help.
 - B. Jeremy asked for admin privileges for the NCC Facebook page. Debbie will add him to the permissions.
 - C. An open meeting law training will take place on April 19th at 10:00. If interested in attending, contact Ken McCann at the town offices so registration is paid by the town.
 - D. Simon Pearish has organized a Knotweed Control talk to be given by a member of the Mad River Valley regarding their success at eradication of this invasive. This talk is sponsored by the Dog River Conservancy at NU. Details will be forthcoming but a date of April 12th has been reserved.
 - E. Knotweed control/eradication was suggested as a topic for an upcoming NCC meeting (or perhaps the joint meeting).
9. The meeting adjourned on a motion by Jeremy, 2nd by Ruth, at 7:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Zuaro
NCC secretary