

## **Northfield Conservation Commission Minutes of October 27, 2021**

1. Roll call: Debbie called the meeting to order at 6:09. Russ, Ruth, Nigel, Debbie in attendance.
2. Adjustments to agenda: The topic of future meeting format was added to new business. Nigel requested the topic of representation to the Water Quality Group for CVRPC be added to new business.
3. Approval of minutes: The minutes of the September 22, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion made by Ruth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ. Unanimous.
4. Updates from subcommittees and working groups:
  - a. Town Forest Stewardship Committee: The Hawk-watch lean to renovation was a very successful project with many different people and groups assisting. The ridgeline cap needs to be installed and floor replacement may be considered in the future. Caroline Zeilenga may be interested in a TFSC position in the future. She could participate as a non-voting member during Russ's absence this Winter. We could also let her know there is a vacancy on NCC.
  - b. Bylaws Working Group: Nigel reported that a first draft is in progress and may be available for review at our next meeting.
  - c. Town Forest Access Feasibility Study: Debbie reported that minutes of the steering committee for this grant will be posted on the town website soon; CVRPC is in charge of the grant and posting the minutes. A presentation of 3 alternatives for forest access will be presented to the Select Board at the 11-23-21 meeting. Jeff Schulz had mentioned an idea to have this grant fall under the NCC/TFSC umbrella. NCC members did not think this was a good idea. To this point, NCC has not been in a controlling position in regard to the Town Forest Access Study, and the NCC believes that to take a controlling position at this late stage in the access study process would create greater confusion as to who is and has been in charge of the study. Both NCC and TFSC are represented on the steering committee at present and the group thought this was adequate. Debbie will update Jeff on this item.

## 5. New Business

- a. Ruth received information on a new “Resilient Community Forests for All” grant opportunity. Two communities in Vermont will be selected to receive \$10,000 as well as significant assistance in developing a tree plan for community stewardship including training of municipal employees. Nigel moved to ask Ruth to explore this grant further and report back. Debbie 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous. In making a second motion, Nigel proposed creating a “Resilient Community Forests for All” working group with members Ruth and Debbie, that would be empowered to decide whether to move forward with this grant application. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ. Unanimous.
  - b. FY 2022-2023 Budget as proposed by Jeff was sent out for review by the group. The amount budgeted for inoculation of Ash trees was increased to \$1,000 so it was decided that additional trees should be treated in the Spring, likely the 3 Ash on the Common and one other prominent large Ash in town.
  - c. Future meeting format: Go-to-meeting, the town’s platform for virtual meetings doesn’t work well for Ruth or Russ. It would be nice to offer the option of on-line attendance for members this Winter as Russ is away. Debbie will look into other platforms that would meet our needs. It was pointed out that the November and December meetings both fall prior to a Holiday. The group would like to have one meeting in mid-December, possibly on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Debbie will look into scheduling this.
  - d. Representation on Water Quality Board: Nigel expressed an interest in serving on this board. Russ is currently our representative. It was agreed that Nigel should participate as a non-voting member while Russ is away this Winter. Russ will speak to Pam DeAndrea at CVRPC.
6. Adjournment: 6:55 moved by Russ, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nigel to adjourn. Unanimous.