

Town of Northfield, Vermont
Northfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of January 26, 2022

1. Roll Call: Russ, Debbie, Ruth, Nigel, John, Jonathan Spencer, member of the public

2. Public Participation: none scheduled

3. Set/adjust agenda: no changes

4. Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Ruth, 2nd by John, minutes of the December 16th, 2021 meeting were approved. Unanimous.

5. Updates:

A. Town Forest Access Feasibility Study: Data collection for the 2nd survey was shared with the group. The consultant, Dubois and King, is currently drafted the final report that will be presented to the Select Board and include more detailed cost and engineering details for the Shaw Center option for adding parking. A next step involves a meeting with NU and Jeff Schulz. Russ is researching access via Kingston and Forest Roads.

B. Grants: The VOREC grant announcement has been delayed until mid-February. The tree planting grant from VT Urban and Community Forestry will enable us to plant 20, larger caliper trees. Trombley's has agreed to do the planting. The LANDS survey from 2015, a geomorphic assessment and the Winooski Basin Plan can assist us in deciding locations for trees. We will also ask the public via Front Porch Forum where trees might be needed. A list of potential locations will be made so a decision can take place in the March meeting. John offered to assist with making documents on the NCC google drive accessible to all.

C. Town Forest Stewardship Committee: no update as they have not met.

D. NCC Bylaws Work Group: Nigel is working to draft bylaws for review.

6. New Business

A. Dog River Symposium: NCC would like to hold a symposium in Fall 2022. Possible partners include Norwich University's Dog River Conservancy group, a new non-profit formed to protect the Berlin Pond Watershed (Tom Willard is the contact), the Roxbury Fish Hatchery (Jeremy Whalen is the contact), and the Winooski River Conservation District. Others who might assist: Will Eberle, Rich Kirn, Steve Fitzhugh. An essay contest could be sponsored at NHS.

B. Consultation with VT Fish and Wildlife Conservation Biologists: Debbie reported that Jens Hilke and Andy Wood are available as resources. Perhaps include a discussion of balancing recreation and conservation as a part of the symposium.

7. Public Participation (unscheduled): Jonathan Spencer asked for clarification about decision making and next steps with the Town Forest Feasibility Access Study.

8. Announcements:

- A. Nigel is now a municipal representative for the Winooski Basin Water Quality Council.
- B. Russ attended a tree warden's meeting and suggests drafting a written agreement for property owners where trees are planted that details how care for the tree will occur.
- C. NCC would like to hold an event for children at the Roxbury Fish Hatchery either as a part of the symposium or as a stand-alone event.
- D. Brad announced he will step down from NCC to focus on TFSC.

9. Adjournment: Russ moved, 2nd by Nigel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:09. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Zuaro, Chair