

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
NORTHFIELD RIVERWALK PROJECT
WORKING GROUP MEETING
Minutes of June 18, 2025
Full meeting recording is available at
<https://youtu.be/5kOcwy4VJH0>

- I. ROLL CALL.** Dan Anderson (Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force), Kahwa Douoguih (Northfield Community Development Network), Janan Hamm, Kaitlyn Keating (NCDN), Taylor Litwin (Friends of the Winooski River), DeLane McIlvene (AWPS Task Force), Charlie Morse (Select Board member), Mary Nadon Scott (AWPS Task Force), and Tim Swartz (AWPS Task Force).

The meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled):

- a. Taylor Litwin, Community Liaison, Friends of the Winooski River (WOF).** Taylor noted that FOW now has three (3) full-time staff members: Executive Director Michele Braun, Sam Puddicombe, and herself. They recently were awarded a grant from the Lake Champlain Basic Program that is intended to promote greater public access to the rivers that feed Lake Champlain. FOW is now working with three (3) municipalities (i.e., Northfield, Barre, and Winooski) on developing appropriate projects to best utilize these funds. On Monday, July 14, 2025, FOW will host a cohort meeting in Montpelier at 5:30 p.m. for representatives of these communities. The previous cohort meeting was attended by members of the Northfield Conservation Commission (NCC) and members of this working group also are encouraged to attend the next meeting. In Winooski, they are developing plans for an improved riverfront park and the Barre representatives would like to improve their river access by providing the general public with more information about the local possibilities. Taylor added that FOW is looking to make use of the grant funds by hiring a consultant who would assist with future community outreach efforts. The plans are to hire this consultant within the next week or so and the person hired would be on board through 2027. Mary thought this was very good news. Taylor added that the next NCC meeting would include a clean water workshop and there would be FOW presence at this meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025 starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room. There also would be remote meeting access. Taylor then asked if there was a set route for the riverwalk trail segment that would start behind the Dollar General Store. Tim said nothing was set in stone at this time but Patrick Meehan did draft some schematics of the most logical trail route and he will email these plans to Taylor. He then asked if there was any update regarding the timing of the Cross Brothers Dam Removal. Taylor said she would be attending a Vermont Dam Task Force meeting next week so she should have a better idea afterwards.

Taylor then suggested that it might be a good idea to hold an organized walk that would follow the proposed riverwalk route. She will coordinate with the working group members regarding the best time and date for this. It was suggested that it might be good to hold this walk on a Tuesday afternoon after residents had already gathered in the nearby Common area for the Farmers Market. Kaitlyn noted that there is a local group that holds regular group walks in Northfield and it might be good to get them involved in this. Janan is a member of this group and will provide the initial outreach on this. Taylor said she can provide updated information about the consultant hiring process for those attending the clean water workshop and/or the cohort meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 21, 2025. The minutes were approved without objection.

IV. OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

- a. Status of Dollar General Land Transfer update.** Charlie understands that Dollar General has all the required paperwork for this land transfer and it should be fully executed later this month.
- b. Cross Brothers Dam Removal update.** Charlie received the impression from Town Manager Jeff Schulz that the project funding is still in place.
- c. Displays Around Town update.** Since the last meeting, DeLane has moved Patrick's riverwalk project display to the Community Dinner held at the Northfield Methodist Church, to Peter Evans' house during the Open Studio weekend, and then to the Northfield Senior Center. It next will go to the Northfield United Church for this weekend's Strawberry Festival and afterwards will be on display at the Northfield Savings Bank for the next three (3) weeks.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Reports from the Field, i.e. updates from other committees, projects, etc.** Tim is working with Economic Development Director Tom Davis on securing funding in order to build and install some handicapped accessible picnic tables that he helped design. Charlie noted that a picnic table will be sited at the new community garden that will be located on Water Street opposite from the Dog River Park. Kaitlyn said members of the Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety Task Force worked together on researching the best possible design for these fully accessible picnic tables.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Unscheduled). There was none.

VII. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: July 16, 2025

VIII. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.