

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of July 26, 2023

- I. **ROLL CALL** At 6:04 Nigel called the meeting to order. Debbie, Russ, Ruth, Nigel & Jeremy present.
- II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):** None.
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** June 28, 2023 (Joint Meeting with TFSC) Ruth moved, 2nd by Debbie to approve the minutes. Unanimous.
- IV. **DISCUSSION**
 - a. **Reports on Flood Damages and Restoration**
 1. **Town Forest Trails:** TFSC met to discuss conditions of trails. Town Forest trails are in decent shape and a recent workday happened his past Sunday. New water bars were added. Another workday in August is needed with more volunteers. A significant number of new water bars are needed to handle severe rains, possibly upwards of 50, according to a formula Russ has for forestry roads. Ruth suggested asking NU cadets who need to do community service. Jeremy will send a request to Ruth who will contact NU's coordinator.

Lybrand/Slate Avenue was devastated in the recent storm. Any restoration of this area is a low priority for NU and would be very expensive. Lydia, Charlie Morse, Jeremy & Debbie walked the Slate Avenue area today. It would take cooperative effort between the town and NU to remedy the present situation. This access point was featured in the VOREC grant. The trail is closed for the foreseeable future.

Debbie will send photos to the ANR & regional planning people who walked this site last Spring. We will also reach out to Lisa Kolb, a hazard mitigation planner with Vermont Emergency Management.
 2. **Dog River Park:** Ruth would like to see social media recognition (FPF and FB) that flood mitigation at DRP worked. Ruth and Jeremy to do posts. Other than trees bent over and mud on paths, no real damage at DRP. Gillespie was chosen to restore paths at the park.
 3. **Other Flood Topics**
 - b. **Town Forest Conservation Easement – Working Group:** Laura Hill Eubanks is willing to assist this group in an advisory capacity. Russ and Nigel will constitute this working group.
 - c. **Town Forest Stewardship Committee (TFSC) – Any Topics not related to Flood Issues.** Jeremy would like to expand the focus of the TFSC beyond just dealing with trail matters.

V. UPDATES

- a. **VOREC Grant:** is going well with SB presentation on 7-25. Maps are coming together and next focus will be on the wayfinding plan.
- b. **New Tree Planting Grant:** Nigel gathering info on planting locations. Russ has arranged for the town to replace the damaged/dead trees on Water St. Tom Trombly is agreeable to do this replacement of trees.
- c. **High School Trails System:** Mo was able to identify the contact person for the trail system. Nigel is going to talk to the school regarding NCC helping with trail maintenance.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED)

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. **Cross Brother's dam removal** was discussed at the Select Board meeting on 7-25. This is a great opportunity to create more river access, a need that was identified in the recent VCRD Common Futures project. Karina Dailey said there is support for this idea.
- b. Russ reminded us that if we are going to apply for a Fish & Wildlife grant, we need to start working on it. This will be on agenda for our next meeting,

VIII. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a. **Report of Working Groups on Forest Uses and Town Forest Stewardship Plan.** Typically, plans are updated on a 10 year cycle. Any changes would need to be approved by SB and have a public hearing. We do have an editable document to work with.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Nigel, Russ, moved to adjourn at 7:24.

Deborah Zuaro