

## **2022 REPORT OF THE NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Dog River Symposium:** In September 2022, the Conservation Commission hosted a day of community discussion and learning with *The Dog River: Now and in the Future*. Community members gathered throughout the day for events including: a guided tour of the Roxbury Fish Hatchery; a demonstration of how river channels may change over time; and a series of presentations by guest speakers on topics related specifically to the health of the Dog River and its role as habitat to various aquatic species. Our thanks to Gretchen Alexander, Will Eldridge, Karen Bates, the Roxbury Fish Hatchery, and our numerous partner organizations for their assistance in this event.

**Invasive Species Management:** Throughout 2022, the Conservation Commission worked to provide timely information to the Select Board and town residents on invasive species within Northfield. In December, Russ Barrett, Tree Warden and Commission Member, presented updated information on the spread of Emerald Ash Borer throughout Washington County and discussed with the Board how to best address the problem, including the costs and benefits of proactive tree removal. Similarly, Mr. Barrett discussed with the Board efforts within the Town Forest to control invasive weeds. Invasive weed management in the Town Forest and throughout Northfield are an ongoing priority of the Commission.

**Town Forest Stewardship Committee:** Members of the TFSC engaged with the town members throughout the year to provide updates such as seasonal trail closures, and group hiking events.

**Grants in Process:** In October, NCC members participated in the planting of fifteen trees at the Northfield Falls Ballpark. These trees were obtained through the Growing Urban Forests grant program, and our thanks go out to Tom Trombly for help in obtaining and planting these trees.

In December, the Commission submitted the application for consideration of the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program Grant, which has been awarded to Northfield.

**New Members:** We are pleased to have David Mears, Mariela Sweich, and Jeremy Whalen join the Commission in 2022, each bringing their diverse skills and viewpoints to our work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nigel G. Hicks-Tibbles  
Chair, Northfield Conservation Commission