

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT**  
**Northfield Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of December 6, 2023**

1. Roll Call: Mo, Nigel, Jeremy, Deb, David
2. Members of the Public (scheduled): Judy Knapp
3. Approval of Minutes 10-25-23 Meeting: Motion by Jeremy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nigel. Motion passed, 4-1. Debbie abstaining.
4. Town Forest Stewardship Committee: Jeremy shared highlights of the Nov/Dec. meeting:
  - A. Andrew Padilla from the Shaw Outdoor Center has joined the TFSC.
  - B. Andrew shared his idea for a more accessible mtn bike trail to the anchor. A short section of the proposed trail would cross Cheney field where a trail already exists.
  - C. There are plans to repair the area of the landslide and FEMA says they will also repair the Lybrand trail.
  - D. Andrew is helping with Winter maintenance and will groom a loop for snowshoeing around the Cheney field.
5. Town Forest Conservation Easement: no update. Targeting January for an update.
6. High School Trails Discussion with Judy Knapp: Judy provided the background on the trail system on the school property. After the July, 2023 storm, a large number of blow downs remain obstructing the trails and they are not safe for use. Judy asked for help in figuring out how to involve the kids in some kind of restoration work. David proposed that a school trails working group be formed consisting of 3 NCC members. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeremy. Unanimous. This group will work with Judy to look into grants and create a plan to involve students in a sustainable maintenance

plan for the trails. NCC members David, Mo and Jeremy agreed to serve on the working group.

7. The group reviewed the proposed zoning bylaw changes and discussed how this change could impact the rural areas in the low-density residential designation. Specifically, there is concern that the town forest has no protections in place in the current proposed zoning changes. Jeremy reminded the group that the town forest includes the property known as “Dustin’s pasture”.

Nigel moved that the NCC request a joint meeting be held with the planning commission to discuss proposed zoning bylaws. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeremy. Unanimous.

8. Other agenda items were tabled for a future meeting; however the group did decide not to pursue another tree planting grant at this time.

9. Adjournment: at 8:17 Debbie proposed the meeting be adjourned. 2<sup>nd</sup> by David.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Zuaro