

Town of Northfield, Vermont
Northfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of March 28, 2024

1. Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:09 with Ruth, Jeremy, Debbie, Russ, and David attending. Mariela joined us for the NMHS trails update.
2. The minutes of the 2-29-24 meeting were approved on a motion by Ruth, 2nd by Jeremy, unanimous.
3. Update: NMHS trails group of Mariela, David, and Jeremy met with Judy Knapp. They spoke with Kevin Wood at VYCC about the goal of having a work crew during the Summer of 2025. A trail use survey was sent out to the school community. This should be shared on FPF and the NCC Facebook page. Jeremy thought the TFSC could do annual cleanup for these trails once they are back in shape.
4. Discussion:
 - A. Lake Champlain Basin Program Grant: Friends of the Winooski is doing a grant application for Northfield. David will connect with them to see if they need anything from us.
 - B. Solar Eclipse Viewing Plan: After an NU astronomy professor pointed out that totality will not occur in Cheney Field, it was decided to go ahead with the event anyway as people may want to observe how nature reacts to the eclipse. Jeremy will do a Facebook post before next Monday.
 - C. Tuesday April 2nd its the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Annual Fisheries Update at The Reservoir in Waterbury, VT. The effects of the July 2023 flood on the fisheries will be presented by Brett Ladago. Mad Dog Trout chapter is sponsoring this event and information can be found at their Facebook page.

5. Updates Continued:

- A. TFSC: Two new members joined this group: Ginny Kunkle and Colin Blackman. Elections were held; Jeremy Chair, Russ vice-chair, Ray secretary. Blazes to mark trails have been purchased. Mud season closures were discussed and will be in synch with NU and other groups, although Cheney field will be open.

Ruth moved to accept the recommendations of the TFSC on trail closures, 2nd by Debbie. Unanimous.

TFSC is coordinating with the town to better coordinate Cheney mowing this year.

- B. Tree planting grant: Russ has provided information to Jeff and this grant will be closed out shortly.
- C. Outreach to Planning Commission: Jeremy and David are going to reach out to the PC to propose a forest reserve designation for the town forest. The Select Board will be copied on communication to the PC.

6. Other Business:

- A. Next NCC meeting is April 25th and will be remote.
- B. Joint meeting of NCC and TFSC will be held in May when Russ is back. This meeting will be held on the regularly scheduled day of Wednesday, May 22nd.
- C. Election of officers will take place at the next meeting after reappointments are complete.

- 7. Adjournment: At 7:02 Russ moved the meeting adjourn, 2nd by Jeremy. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Zuaro, Secretary