

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT**  
**NORTHFIELD RIVERWALK PROJECT**  
**WORKING GROUP MEETING**  
**Minutes of July 16, 2025**  
**Full meeting recording is available at**  
**<https://youtu.be/7EoBX8rbLPg>**

- I. ROLL CALL.** Dan Anderson (Accessibility, Walkability, and Pedestrian Safety [AWPS] Task Force), Janan Hamm, Kaitlyn Keating (Northfield Community Development Network [NCDN]), DeLane McIlvene (AWPS Task Force), Mary Nadon Scott (AWPS Task Force), Merry Shernock (Select Board member), Carolyn Stevens (NCDN), and Tim Swartz (AWPS Task Force).

The meeting started at 6:08 p.m.

- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled):** None.

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 18, 2025.** The minutes were approved without objection.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES**

- a. Transfer of Land from Dollar General for Trail Section D update.** Merry said that Northfield has done all it can do for this land transfer so we are now waiting for Dollar General corporate to complete the process. This matter doesn't seem to be a priority for them. As a select Board member, Merry has suggested that this might be a good place to relocate the kiosk/bus stop since once the land transfer has been completed, it will be municipal property in perpetuity.
- b. Cross Brothers Dam Removal Route update.** Merry said we still don't know whether the dam removal will be done this year. FEMA was to pay for the whole project but due to staffing reductions, there is growing uncertainty about the timing of the project. On the bright side, Merry said that an updated dam removal plan shows the construction access route would be the same as the one favored for the riverside path.
- c. Displays Around Town update.** Merry said that at a previous meeting DeLane had been tasked with finding locations where the project displays could be rotated around Northfield. DeLane said over the past couple of months the displays have been present at the Methodist Church's free dinners, at the United Church's strawberry festival, at Peter Evans' house over the Open Studio Weekend, at the Senior Center, and currently at the Northfield Savings Bank. The displays will be at the bank until the end of the month. Merry felt that DeLane has done an excellent job in getting the project displays out to community members. DeLane said those viewing the displays have shown a lot of interest and the response has been all positive. There followed a brief discussion about where the displays could be located next. Dan suggested putting them in local businesses but it was noted that not many have sufficient space for the displays. Tim suggested Norwich University's Kreitzberg Library once classes resume this fall. Mary suggested Kenyon's Hardware Store as there is ample room at the front of the building (when the baby chicks are not on display there). Janan will contact vendors at the Northfield Farmers Market to see if they would be willing to host the displays.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Review Schedule for Guided Walks.** Janan would like to spread these walks over July, August, September, and October. The next walk is scheduled for Saturday, July 19, 2025 starting at 9:00 a.m. The next two will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. The Tuesday walks will begin at the Common Fountain during the Northfield Farmers Market. These walks will follow the whole length of the proposed Riverwalk path and the segments of the trail now inaccessible (i.e., behind the Green Mountain Apartments) will be referenced from a distance. Janan especially would like to hear from individuals who have walked along riverside paths in other communities. She added that the dates for the August walks have not yet been confirmed. Tim noted by the time of the next meeting, we will have experience with these walks and will know what does and does not work. Janan wants to make sure that everyone who is interested in these walks will feel encouraged to take part regardless of mobility issues, etc. Merry suggested that the September walks could include some focused on Northfield Elementary and Middle & High School students. Mike Gonnevillie and Leslie Striebe would be the best contact persons for setting these up. Merry felt there could be valuable feedback from the students from these organized walks. Mary said the Mad Dog Trout group often holds presentations at schools regarding issues related to our local rivers so students already should have some background information regarding the Dog River. Merry thought we should schedule some foliage walks for this October. There also could be some events in conjunction with Covered Bridge Week (08/02/25-08/09/25).
- b. Report of Meetings with Friends of the Winooski River (FOW) & Northfield Conservation Commission (NCC).** Tim said some AWPS Task Force members plan to attend the next NCC meeting (07/23/25) when Cheney Field parking possibilities will be discussed. FOW members did attend the last NCC meeting (06/25/25) when a Clean Water Workshop was held and the FOW members provided many useful suggestions. Merry said that FOW held a meeting recently as part of its Lake Champlain grant program that encourages riverfront projects. Northfield, Barre, and Winooski were the targeted communities for this program and each sent representatives. Merry felt a lot of useful information was provided at this meeting as we can learn a lot from the experiences of other communities. Mary attended the meeting remotely and agreed that much useful information was provided. Janan agreed to create a better social media presence for Northfield as this program progresses.
- c. Reports from the Field, i.e. updates from other committees, projects, etc.** Carolyn said NCDN is now focused on preparations for this year's "Night on the Common," which is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 23, 2025. It was felt this could be another good venue for providing information about the Riverwalk Project.

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

**VII. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** August 20, 2025.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.