

Town of Northfield, Vermont
Northfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of April 27, 2022

1. Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 with Debbie, Jeremy, David, Russ, Nigel, Brad Johnson, Coilin O'Neil present.
2. Members of the Public, scheduled: none
3. Additions to agenda: none
4. Election of Officers: David moves to accept Nigel as Chair and Debbie as secretary. 2nd by Jeremy. Motion passed, unanimously.
5. Updates from Members:
 - A. Tree planting will take place in Fall of this year, supported by a grant from Urban and Community Forests. The trees will be planted by Trombley's greenhouse in town. Locations for the trees (10) need to be identified.
 - B. Dog River Symposium will take place in the Fall. David is willing to assist Ruth in planning this event, as is Russ. Jeremy mentioned Mad Dog chapter of Trout Unlimited and Brett Ladago as resources. David offered to find ANR and DEC speakers. Russ envisions this event including the towns of Roxbury, Berlin, and Montpelier in addition to Northfield.
 - C. Dog working group met and notes were sent out. Jeremy gave a report of what the group is working on; short term goal is for temporary signage to be up by June, define what "under control" means, use language consistent with that at the Shaw Center that states, "dogs must be on leash and under control". Collin reported a drastic improvement in dog and owner behavior with the posting of signs using this language.

Debbie will send out a link to the Stowe Land Trust webinar on the impact of trails on wildlife. David offered to send the research article that was the basis of the webinar to members

6. VOREC Grant: Debbie gave an update on where things are at. A Steering Committee is being formed. At present Jeff Schulz, Lydia Petty, Debbie, Russ, Kim Caldwell, Nancy Peck and Collin O'Neil are on this committee and the town is advertising for 2 members of the public to join as well. Jeff has been working on an RFP for trail work on the Slate Ave. trail. The grant will assist with implementation of goals identified by the TFSC and NCC; wayfinding system, signage, additional parking, removal of invasive species, restoring view from Hawk Watch lean-to and restoration of Slate Ave. trail. The town Forest Access Feasibility Study is due to be finalized shortly. Debbie will send that out when it is complete. The present draft is available on the town website.
7. Miscellaneous: Russ reported talking to Savannah Ferreira, forest health specialist at FPR about Operation Purple Trap; the placement of EAB traps in the Northfield town forest. Collin requested a trap for a location on NU land. Northfield is a considered a high-risk area for EAB.
8. 6:50 meeting adjourned on motion by Nigel, 2nd by Russ.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Zuaro