

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
DOG RIVER PARK COMMITTEE
Minutes of February 17, 2025

1. Roll Call
 - a. Committee Members Present: Kim Adams, Russ Barrett, Fred Nadon, Bonnie Donahue (all present).
 - b. Meeting began at 4:04pm
2. Set/Adjust Agenda
 - a. No changes
3. Approval of Minutes (October 2025)
 - a. No changes. Minutes approved.
 - i. Motion by Kim, second by Fred. 4-0-0.
4. DRPC Summary for Town Report
 - a. Reviewed the DRPC summary for 2025.
5. Cross-Committee Meeting (summary and ideas for DRPC)
 - a. Bonnie gave an overview of the cross-committee meetings organized by the Friends of the Winooski for environmental-related committees in Northfield.
 - b. Committee liked the idea of summarizing the functions of the Dog River Park (including reminders of what we can/can't do) in the Northfield News and post a link to the article (maybe on the Town Website?) to Front Porch Forum.
 - c. No need to draft monthly reports to Conservation Commission at this time. Russ can cover this as needed as our representative on the committee.

6. Playground Equipment Ideas for Older Adults

- a. Discussed idea passed along from the cross-committee meeting. We want to maintain the ambiance of the park as a natural area with passive recreation. Russ noted that there are exercise stations at a park in his area and he rarely sees them used. The group will think more about this and come back together with ideas. Whatever we do will need to comply with FEMA regulations.
 - i. One additional idea that came up was hosting painting and wine in the park! Perhaps on Open Studio Weekend? Reach out to Jeanne Bright to get her thoughts.

7. Norwich University Grant

- a. Bonnie provided an update on a grant that Norwich University recently received that will connect students and the community with the Dog River. Discussed ideas for how the students' class work could support the Dog River Park, including art installations, knotweed removal, and writing educational articles about the park.

8. Member updates

- a. Meadow mowing did not happen in fall 2025. We will schedule it for fall 2026 (sooner if there are woody plants rapidly establishing)
- b. We would like to find a Norwich University or Northfield High School student to be a member on our committee. We will reach out to Simon Pearish to see what he recommends.

9. Public Participation (unscheduled)

- a. None

10. Adjourned at 4:40pm

- a. Motion by Russ, second by Fred. 4-0-0