

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
Northfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of the 1-25-2023 Meeting

- I. ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 6:06 with Debbie, Russ, Nigel, David, Ruth, Mo, Jeremy, in attendance. Lisa from the Veteran's Place attended part of the meeting.
- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):** None.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 14, 2022** Ruth moved that the minutes be approved, 2nd by Russ. Unanimous.
- IV. UPDATES**
- a. VOREC Grant:** The contract from the state is expected soon subsequent to the landowner permission form being received. The wayfinding project with Dubois and King is next up.
 - b. Closed Tree Planting Grant:** The town submitted the report for the 15 trees planted last Fall.
 - c. New Tree Planting Grant:** A \$4,000 grant to plant 10 trees was awarded. The plan is to plant again in the Fall. Nigel will amend the proposal.
 - d. Budget Update:** Nigel submitted the budget to the town.
 - e. Possible geomorphic stream survey, and other river-oriented projects:** Nigel contacted Brian Voigt from CVRPC who plans to join us at a future meeting. A geomorphic survey of streams in Northfield would help the planning commission in zoning revisions.
- V. DISCUSSION**
- a. Watershed Grant Application – deadline of Feb. 8, 2023:** The group discussed submitting an application for funding. Russ suggested looking at the Winooski Basin Plan to choose a project. A motion was made by Nigel, to authorize a subcommittee consisting of Nigel and 1-2 additional members, to research topics and submit a Watershed grant application. The motion was 2nded by David. Unanimous. Nigel will take the lead with help from David and Russ.
 - b. Town Forest Stewardship Committee:** The TFSC met recently and discussed goals for the coming year.
 - i.** Update the forest management plan. The county forester is working on this.
 - ii.** Clarify and balance priorities between recreation, conservation, and land management.

iii. Update the Town Forest Stewardship plan to reflect current membership of the group. Russ suggested doing this via an addendum to the plan. Debbie will send a history of proposed changes to Jeremy.

iv. Reroute the ridgeline trail working with NU to avoid sensitive areas.

c. Town Zoning Changes: Ruth would like NCC members to comment on the proposed zoning changes. The group agreed that Nigel and Jeremy, chairs, will send a letter in support of the town forest zoning change. The letter will be sent to members for review prior to forwarding to the planning commission. A joint meeting of the NCC and the planning commission was suggested. Ruth gave an overview of the following proposed changes:

i. Currently Town Forest is zoned residential.

ii. Riparian buffers and stream set backs

iii. NCC to comment for major projects reviewed by DRB

iv. Overlay map for wildlife corridors

v. Focus development where water and sewer exist (promoted by state)

d. Environmental Leadership Training Opportunity: The ANR series of environmental leadership trainings will start soon. Nigel plans to attend. Information on the trainings on ANR website.

VI. Public Participation (Unscheduled): none

VII. Other Business:

a. A talk on Knotweed management will take place on March 15th focusing on non-chemical strategies for control. The Waitsfield Conservation Commission will present this topic. Simon Pearish at NU is the contact for this talk.

b. A management plan for the Dog River Park was drafted by Bonnie Donahue and will be sent to NCC members for review prior to sending to Select Board.

VIII. Topics for February 22, 2023 meeting:

a. Brian Voight from CVRPC will join the meeting to discuss water quality projects.

b. Informational display at Town Meeting

c. For a future meeting: Invite Kate Wanner of the Warren Conservation Commission and the VT Land Trust to join us to discuss protections for the town forest.

IX. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 on a motion by Russ, 2nd by Nigel. Unanimous.

**Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Zuaro, Clerk NCC**