

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**