

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT**  
**Northfield Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of October 26, 2022**

1. Roll Call: Nigel, Ruth, Russ, Jeremy, Debbie present. Mariela (Mo) Swiech
2. Members of the public scheduled: none
3. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved on a motion made by Russ, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeremy. 4 aye, 1 abstaining.
4. NCC Membership: Candidate for membership, Mo Swiech joined the meeting. Mo organized the environmental club at her school. Nigel explained the statutory scope of the Conservation Commission. Ruth moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ to recommend Mo to the Select Board for appointment to the NCC. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Updates:
  - A. VOREC grant: Dubois & King, Randolph, VT was awarded the bid for design of a Way-finding system. The RFP for View clearing and invasive species & vegetation removal was awarded to Fogerty Forestry, West Newbury, VT. A trail counting system consisting of 3 counters plus data software was ordered. The contract with the state should be out in November.
  - B. Tree Planting grant: 15 native-grown trees were planted today at the Northfield Falls ballpark by Tom Trombley. Ruth will be sending the final paperwork for this grant for review before it is submitted.
6. Discussion Items:
  - A. Dog River Symposium wrap up: The slide presentations are now posted on the town website, under Conservation Commission. The recording of the symposium will be posted on the Vermont Coverts YouTube channel. Nigel will share the contacts list. As we consider river corridor issues, dam removal and access as examples, we could invite symposium attendees for further discussion. One potential partnership is with Mad Dog Trout Unlimited as they support planting of trees along the river. The MadDog Chapter of Trout Unlimited (MDTU) is sponsoring a "Summit on the Dog River Wild Trout" on November 4th from 1:00-4:00 PM at the Capital City Grange in Montpelier.
  - B. Action items from symposium: Nigel will invite Brian Voight from CVRPC to join our next meeting to explain how they might help with the geomorphic assessment of side brooks to the Dog River, a future goal. We should also remain up to date on the progress of the basin plan revision underway for the Winooski river basin being performed by Karen Bates.

- C. Town Forest Stewardship Committee
    - 1. Membership- The TFSC would like to add a 7<sup>th</sup> member and is interested in a student from the High School.
    - 2. Fires in the Town Forest- Jeremy reported that several fires have been discovered recently, despite the new signage stating this is prohibited. A location in the woods off Cheney field is now in use for fires with a cache of cut wood. After discussion, it was agreed that Nigel will e-mail Collin O'Neil and the communications person for NU to ask that an e-mail be sent to students reminding them that fires are not allowed in the town forest and to respect private property along the Dog River.
  - D. EAB presentation to Select Board: Russ will attend the Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting to present information about Emerald Ash Borer and the need for a 10-year plan. EAB has not been confirmed in Northfield yet. Jeremy suggested making roadside Ash that is removed available to people in our town who need it.
  - E. New tree planting grant: Nigel moved that we grant authority to a tree planting subcommittee of Ruth, Russ and Nigel, to draft another tree planting grant. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ. Unanimous.
7. Budget and Reimbursements
- A. Forest signage: this was ordered by the town.
  - B. Symposium costs: get requests to Nigel so people can be reimbursed.
  - C. Nigel is working on the budget for the next fiscal year. Nigel moved to use up to \$300 from the present budget to purchase water bags to care for new trees that are planted. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debbie. Unanimous.
8. Public participation, unscheduled: none
9. Other business
- A. Jeremy stated that as it is hunting season, NCC should issue a reminder to hikers to wear orange. Debbie will post this on the Facebook page. Russ will post on FPF.
  - B. Meeting schedule: November and December meetings fall near holidays. It was agreed that one meeting will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>, remote format only.
10. Adjournment: At 7:44 the meeting was adjourned on the motion by Ruth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Zuaro