

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
Northfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of July 27, 2022

- I. ROLL CALL: Ruth, Russ, Jeremy, Nigel, Debbie, David
- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the June 22, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion by Russ, 2nd by Jeremy, 5-0-1, Ruth abstaining.
- IV. UPDATES
 - a. Town Forest Dog Rules Working Group: This group has not met recently.
 - b. VOREC Grant: Debbie reported that work is beginning on the Slate Ave. trail restoration. Apex Trailworks out of Braintree, is doing the work. They are experienced in trail construction. The trail is closed during the two weeks it is estimated to take to complete the project. An RFP for the wayfinding master plan is due to go out shortly. Russ and Debbie will attend the August 9th Select Board meeting to inform the board of the need to use herbicides for removal of invasives near the Hawk watch. The state is still working on getting contracts out but has assured grant recipients that work can extend into 2024.
 - c. Town Forest Access Study, Final Report: No update or questions. This topic will come back for discussion pending the VOREC work on expanded parking at Shaw Center.
 - d. Town Forest Stewardship Committee: The TFSC met on July 19th. Jeremy is now the interim chair of this group. Fires have been noted in the upper Cheney field. The group requests that NCC approve and fund temporary signage to post at entrance sites.

David moved, 2nd by Ruth, to approve the TFSC request for 4 signs with bullet points as follows, to post at access points.

- **No fires without permit**
- **Dogs on leash or under control**
- **Clean up after your dog**
- **No motorized vehicles**

The motion passed unanimously.

Nigel moved, 2nd by Ruth, that NCC approve up to \$200 from the NCC budget for 4 signs as requested by the Town Forest Stewardship Committee. Unanimous. Ruth will share contact information for signs with Nigel and Jeremy.

- e. Tree Planting Grant: Ruth and Russ will contact Tom Trombly about ordering trees. Vermont Community Forestry list of recommended trees to plant will be consulted. The goal is to diversify the species of trees planted and avoid sugar maple as that is prevalent in Northfield. Planting will not include Dog River Glen at this time although in the future this would be appropriate. Sites chosen to plant trees are the Falls Ballpark, replacement tree across from Dog River Park and outside NSB, the school campus, near the police station. Water bags will be ordered to facilitate watering of the trees by the town.

V. DISCUSSION

- a. Dog River Symposium: Ruth and David have been working on the symposium and shared the following information. The date is Sunday, September 11th from 1-5. The following elements will make up the program:

- Fish Hatchery visit
- Panel Discussion
- Stream table

The following topics have been proposed:

- Trout and Fish
- Water Quality
- Wildlife

There has been widespread support for this undertaking with Berlin and Montpelier Conservation Commissions, Mad Dog Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Vermont Natural Resources, Friends of the Winooski, and others willing to be co-sponsors and help with PR for the event. Speakers have been recruited including a fisheries biologist. At the August meeting, Ruth and David will report back with final details on this event.

Comments from the group included the need to reach out to Dog River Conservancy at NU, contact Simon Pearish, contact Winooski Valley Resource Conservation District as potential co-sponsor, and ask Friends of the Winooski for help with a poster. There is a need to provide childcare during the event.

- b. Emerald Ash Borer update to Selectboard: There is no change in status for Northfield with regard to EAB although current maps show our town to be “red” meaning EAB is likely here. Traps are still out. Russ would like to speak to the Select Board at the last meeting in September about the need to address EAB.

Nigel moved, 2nd by David, that the NCC have Russ and/or a colleague make a presentation to the Select Board to encourage them to make a 10-year plan to address Ash tree removals in Northfield. All in favor.

Ruth reminded us the Asian Longhorn Beetle is in Mass. at present.

- VI. Public Participation (Unscheduled) None.

- VII. Other Business:

- a. Membership: No interest to report in vacant positions. Debbie will post vacancies on the NCC Facebook page. David raised the idea of having a student join the group. Jeremy will reach out to Luke Foley to ask for an interested High School student.
- b. Nigel is now the chair of the Winooski River Basin Water Quality Council.

- VIII. Adjournment: At 7:34 on a motion by Ruth, 2nd by Russ, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Zuaro