

**Northfield Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of May 26,2021**

- I. Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:06 with the following in attendance: Brad, Deb, Lydia Petty, Colin Bright, Russ, Ruth, Justin Lapointe Nigel Tibbles
- II. Public Participation: none
- III. Minutes of the March 24, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion by Ruth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ. Unanimous.
- IV. The group spoke with Nigel Hick-Tibbles and Justin Lapoint, who are interested in joining the NCC. On a motion by Ruth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ, and approved unanimously, the group will recommend to the Select Board that these individuals be appointed to the NCC. \*\*\*Note: After the meeting Justin shared that he may be moving back to Chittenden County which would preclude him serving on NCC as members must live in the town.
- V. Updates
  - a. Emerald Ash Borer Grant: a very successful **tree planting** was held by members of the NCC on May 15<sup>th</sup> where 18 trees were planted. Thanks go to Tom Trombley who ordered the trees and Rotary Club who supported the purchase of trees. Additional support from an Arbor Day grant from the State was secured by Ruth.
  - b. The **EAB grant** closes soon. Ruth will contact Jeff to make sure paperwork is ready to go.
  - c. **Town Forest Stewardship Committee** report: The group is ready to make a recommendation to the Select Board at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting on trail approval/removal in the Town Forest. A map created with the help of CVRPC and ANR resources titled, "Overview of Unsanctioned Trails" shows each trail. The trails were reviewed as follows:
    - i. Trail 1-the summit or ridgeline trail on the former TDS Paine Mtn property, was approved.
    - ii. Trail 2-a is approved but requires a landowner agreement or rerouting.
    - iii. Trail 2-b, newly established last year is to be removed.

- iv. Trail 3-known as Postal, a popular Mtn bike trail requires landowner agreement or reroute before approval. This is currently problematic as rerouting will require 2 stream crossings. Outreach to the landowner to discuss will occur.
- v. Trail 4 is approved but requires landowner agreement before approval.
- vi. Trail 5 is a cluster of local snowshoe trails that are in TF and approved.
- vii. Trail 6-a 200 ft connector to the NU trails is approved.
- viii. Trail 7-Forest Road continuation is approved but will need a landowner agreement.

After NCC review of the TFSC recommendations as detailed above, a motion was made as follows:

**NCC moves that the Select Board take action on approving/disapproving existing unsanctioned trails as recommended by the Town Forest Stewardship Committee, after consulting with VLCT and or counsel and obtaining landowner permission.** Ruth moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ, unanimous.

VI. Discussion

- a. Emerald Ash Borer-Next steps: This will be a standing agenda item at every meeting as we work to prepare to meet the challenge of what is to come. Ideas offered were to hold a meeting of Russ and Brad with Pat Demasi and Trent Tucker, and to write a report for the Select Board outlining options to address trees in the town R-O-W. The Ash market is currently strong and there could be an offset to the cost of tree removal. **The town of Randolph has estimate 2.7 million is needed to address EAB.**
- b. Update for Select Board: Debbie will contact Jeff to get on the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda to present the NCC/TFSC recommendations on trails.

VII. Announcements:

- a. There is a tour of the Barre Town Forest being held on June 19<sup>th</sup> that will detail how their timber harvest went.
- b. Trees planted continue to need water.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:05 on a motion by Russ, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brad. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Zuaro, Chair NCC