

Northfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2021

1. Roll call: Debbie called the meeting to order at 8:06 with Debbie, John, Nigel, Russ, Ruth attending.
2. No public participation
3. Addition to agenda: new beaver activity in town forest
4. Approval of minutes: October 27, 2021 meeting on motion of Ruth, 2nd by Russ. Unanimous.
5. Grants:
 - a. We should find out soon if we will receive the Resilient Urban Forests grant. This would provide \$10,000 to support tree planting, equipment purchases and training for road crew and create a tree plan for Northfield.
 - b. Town Forest Access Feasibility study is on-going. A final survey on alternatives has been distributed. Please participate, link to be posted on Front Porch Forum.
 - c. VOREC grant: announcement of recipients in January, 2022.
 - d. EAB grant: This grant has closed. A case study has been written about our experience in Northfield. We will post on FPF and Facebook.
 - e. Arbor day grant: The report and paperwork is due Dec. 31st. Debbie will check with Jeff to make sure this is in order and will be submitted.
6. Town Forest Stewardship Committee Update: Russ reported that the Hawk Watch Lean to roof has been completed. Caroline Zeilenga is interested in joining the group.
7. John reported a friend had told him of a new beaver pond forming below the current well-established pond. Russ will check with Lydia and Brad.

8. Bylaws work group: Nigel reported he is working on a draft of bylaws for NCC. Stowe Conservation Commission has a useful example of bylaws. A draft should be ready in the next couple of months.
9. End of year report: Debbie sent out a copy of the NCC's end of year report to the town. Ruth had comments: include the EAB symposium in 2021 and the Resilient Urban Forest Grant application. Arbor day grant amount is not accurate, omit this.
10. Ideas for next year include reaching out to wildlife biologists Andy Wood and Jens Hilke at the Vermont Community Wildlife Program to review the current state of the town forest with the NCC and TFSC. Also, to convene a symposium on the water quality in the Dog River.
11. On a motion by Russ, 2nd by John, the meeting adjourned at 6:49.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Zuaro, Chair NCC