

## **Northfield Conservation Commission Minutes of the May 25, 2022 Meeting**

- I. Roll Call: Nigel, Ruth, Debbie, David, Russ present. Meeting called to order at 6:07.
- II. Public Participation: none
- III. On a motion by David, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debbie, the minutes of the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. 4 in favor, 1 abstaining.
- IV. Updates:
  - A. VOREC Grant: Debbie reported that the steering committee has been appointed by the Select Board; Russ and Debbie are on this committee. RFP's for Slate Avenue trail work have gone out and a walk-through of the site has taken place.
  - B. Town Forest Access Study: The final report was presented to the Select Board on May 24<sup>th</sup> by Dubois and King, consultants. The final report is now on-line and available on the town website. Another meeting to review the recommendations from this report may be held as attendance by members of the public was suboptimal.
  - C. Town Forest Stewardship Committee: Russ did not attend the last meeting, so no update from him. Brad Johnson has stepped down as chair and resigned from this committee for personal reasons. Nigel will attend the next meeting of this group.
  - D. The grant from Urban and Community Forestry will allow us to plant 15 trees of caliper size 1.5 this Fall. A local nursery, Trombley's Greenhouse, will obtain the trees and plant them. The Town is to water these trees. Ruth and Russ will meet to determine location and species of trees to be planted, and report back to the group at the June meeting. One replacement tree is needed along Water St. where damage by a string trimmer has killed the tree.

V. Discussion

- A. Dog River Symposium: Ruth reported that she and David have met and decided to focus on 3 topics: Trout, water quality and riparian buffers. David has contacted Fish and Wildlife and Trout Unlimited, Ruth has reached out to the Berlin and Montpelier Conservation Commissions. Russ suggested contacting Simon Pearish of NU's Dog River Conservancy and Michele Braun of the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District. Ideas for the symposium include a Fish Hatchery tour, display of the "sand table", a Sat. p.m. event, & offering childcare for parents to attend. An update on the symposium will take place at the next meeting.
- B. Dog Working Group: Nigel reported that the group is focusing on the definition of the wording, "under control", for a policy recommendation. David suggested this means, "dog by your side on a leash or within X number of feet". The goal is to align the policy with the Shaw Center's policy. Buy in and education dog owners will be key.
- C. EAB Presentation to Select Board: Russ suggests contacting the State Entomologist. Russ is willing to put together a presentation for a July or August meeting. All utility companies have EAB removal programs so they should be included in planning for ash removal. A purple trap was placed in Northfield on the Berlin Pond Road to detect EAB.

VI. Public participation unscheduled: none

VII. Other business: none

VIII. Adjournment: At 7:06 Russ moved to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Zuaro, secretary NCC