

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
Northfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of February 25, 2026

1. Roll Call: Jeremy, Nigel, Debbie, Russ
2. Updates to agenda: Butterfly project
3. Public Participation: none
4. Approve minutes of January 28th meeting: deferred; no quorum
5. Discussion Items
 - A. Cheney Field Access Report: the report was presented to the Select Board at their February 10th meeting. The meeting with town manager Steve Mackenzie and road foremen to be scheduled.
 - B. Cheney Field Restoration: Recommendations from the Town Forests Stewardship Committee follow:
 - Planting native flowers that won't disrupt the native ecosystem.
 - Working with local professionals, such as Fish and Wildlife, to get recommendations.
 - Since the diagonal road is already in place, should it be taken advantage of? Maybe leave the roadbed in and seed with native grasses.
 - Andrew suggested the group gets together to discuss instructions for the contractor. Bill and Ginny agreed to join the group for discussion.
 - Jeremy asked Bill if he could join a meeting with the Town Manager to discuss field restoration.
 - C. Town Forest Conservation Easement Next Steps

A public forum will take place on March 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the Community room at the Brown Public Library. This will be warned as a special meeting of the Conservation Commission. Please share information broadly about this event.

This proposal will be presented at the March 10, Select Board Meeting.
 - D. Reconnecting with Rivers Report on 2-12-26 meeting

6. Updates

A. Town Forest Stewardship Committee

News from the Shaw center includes; the disc golf course is up, a Wilderness First Responder course was held, FEMA money will fix the landslide that occurred behind the Shaw Outdoor Center, NU may offer an outdoor course this Summer. Andrew wants to be involved in the restoration discussions for Cheney field as NU land was also affected.

This group would like to edit and update the Town Forest Stewardship Plan. Debbie cautioned that an obstacle to doing this in the past was maintaining the formatting of the document. Changes will need to go to the Select Board and a public meeting may be required.

B. VYCC Youth Trails Improvement Project and Fundraising Strategy

Meetings have taken place. David and Jeremy hope to meet with VYCC rep, Tom Davis, our economic development director, Judy Knapp for Northfield Schools to continue to advance this project.

C. Northfield Range Conservation effort with Mad River Valley

No new information.

D. Berlin Conservation Commission Coordination

Russ is the Northfield representative on the Berlin Pond Watershed committee. An amphibian tour is being planned for May.

Suz and Russ met with Dana from the VT Center for Eco studies regarding a proposed Butterfly survey to take place on forest blocks that fall largely in Williamstown and Roxbury. This will be a joint effort with the Berlin Conservation Commission. Ben Pincus, Roxbury Outdoor Committee head, will also be contacted.

E. Russ attended the meeting of the AVCC (Association of VT conservation commissions) to discuss the Vermont Conservation Plan and provide feedback. Additional meetings to discuss this plan will take place.

7. Agenda for next meeting

The first 3 agenda items from this meeting should be revisited for updates.

8. Meeting adjourned on a motion by Russ, 2nd by Nigel. Unanimous.

Deborah Zuaro