

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting on April 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Pam Knox at 6:40 pm.

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Present were Commissioners Pam Knox, Ruth Ruttenberg, Christine Barnes, Leslie Matthews, and Laura Hill-Eubanks.
- II. **SET/ADJUST AGENDA**
- III. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (scheduled):** None
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** February 11, 2015 minutes, February 24, 2014 minutes, March 11, 2015 minutes approved 4-0-1.
- V. **DISCUSSION**
 - a. **Forest Stewardship Plan:** Commissioners discussed next steps in the Forest Stewardship Plan for the Town Forest on Paine Mountain. Christine will organize and lead a public forum on April 29th at 6:30 PM in the Brown Public Library. The forum will cover visions and goals. Leslie will send out an announcement on FPF and by email.

Leslie is reviewing the town forest public survey results and will prepare a report when she has collated the data. More than 200 responses were received.

Reviewed existing information on important natural resources in the Town Forest that should be given careful consideration in stewardship planning: streams/ponds/vernal pools and their buffers, deer wintering areas, and threatened or endangered species.
 - b. **2015 Leahy Environmental Summit:** Christine and Pam have been attending the Leahy Summit meetings and will attend a meeting of the design team on April 14. The goal is to move forward on the park on Water Street that will be established in place of the properties that were removed after flooding by Irene. The park will be a community gathering site that will also seek to mitigate flooding by re-establishing floodplain function. A natural riparian buffer zone along the riverbank should be included in the design.
 - c. **Urban Forestry Grants:** Ruth has written and will submit for the NCC a grant application to conduct a natural resources/wildlife habitat assessment in the Town Forest. The town manager has issued a letter of support. NCC gave its full support for the application by vote of 5-0-0.

The small tree grant for the students to work on tree pests is ongoing and must be carried out soon in order to use the funds available.

d. **Willow planting:** The tree planting on Union Brook will be postponed until May due to snow cover.

e. **Energy conference:** The LEAP Energy Fair in Duxbury is April 11.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (unscheduled): None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield Conservation Commission.

These minutes are subject to changes and approval at the next regular meeting, but are substantially correct.