

## NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting on August 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

**I. ROLL CALL:** Present were Commissioners Pam Knox, Ruth Rутtenberg, Russ Barrett, Don Wallace, and Laura Hill-Eubanks.

**II. SET/ADJUST AGENDA:** Add one item regarding Water St. Park.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (scheduled):** None

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of July 12, 2017. Vote was 4-0-1. Tabled.

### V. DISCUSSION

**Stewardship Plan:** Leslie is finishing up compiling the document and will send out to us when complete. NCC will send the plan to Arrowwood and set up a public forum before submitting to Select Board for approval.

**VYCC Trail Work:** VYCC completed the installation of stream crossings in the Town Forest. Russ managed the work crew. Project is complete and crossings are ready to use. Ruth and Russ will see about closing out the grant.

**Website:** Pam is working on developing a website for the NCC. She will send us the options for templates and URL's.

**Community Education:** NCC will develop a list of topics for community conservation education. Members to work on their choice of topics. First up will be Dog River assessment and the river corridor plan report, and a possible presentation by Fish & Wildlife.

**NCC Hikes:** Russ (and his big-hearted, sure-footed beagle cross, Bean) led a hike up Scrag Mountain to mark and look over the condition of the trails for potential NCC-led outings. Laura and a companion hiker also made the trek. The trails were wet and fairly rough. The summit was worth the trip, though, and overall it is an interesting hike, if not somewhat challenging (ropes on upper rock face involved - yup; thankfully someone had placed the ropes previously - those rocks were slippery). But NCC will not be leading a hike up Scrag for the time being due to trail conditions.

Next public hike on August 27<sup>th</sup> will be the Paine Mountain Trail to check out the new bridges and stream crossings in the Town Forest.

**Forest Management Plan – state update:** The Dustin's Pasture municipal parcel needs an update to its forest management plan. Pam and Russ will coordinate with the town.

**Land Trust:** Pam, Russ, Nathaniel, and Laura met with the Select Board to seek approval of pursuing the acquisition of a piece of property that is adjacent to the Town Forest. The parcel would increase recreational, conservation, and forestry opportunities in the Town Forest. The Select Board granted permission to begin negotiations for the parcel. The acquisition would be paid for with grant money and fundraising, with help from Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. The final agreement for the acquisition will require further approval from the Select Board.

**Rotary:** Ruth will be presenting information about the NCC to the Rotary in Northfield. The Rotary has provided funding for up to three children to attend conservation camp. In the fall, Ruth and Pam will work on publicizing the conservation camp opportunity and will be seeking applicants that wish to attend.

**Friends of the Winooski and Water Street Park volunteer opportunity:** Friends of the Winooski is looking for volunteers to help remove invasive plants (knotweed) from a section of the banks of the Dog River. The knotweed must be removed before the new Water Street Park can be completed. NCC has offered to help find volunteers for the project.

**VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

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.