

Northfield Conservation Commission

September 13, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm

- I. ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners Don Wallace, Laura Hill-Eubanks, Ruth Ruttenberg, and Jane Pekol.
- II. Set/Adjust Agenda: Added Recreational Trails and close-out grant update
- III. Public Participation (Scheduled): None
- IV. Approval of Minutes: Tabled until we have a quorum for voting.
- V. Discussion:

Stewardship Plan: Laura will contact Arrowwood to find out what dates and times they can do for a public forum. Arrowwood is committed to doing 2 events: a presentation to the Selectboard, and a public forum. Commissioners discussed writing a paragraph summary of what is in the plan—uses, protection, management. Outreach will be needed for the public forum. Christine may be amenable to writing a piece for the Northfield News. We will post the document publicly on Facebook and post a like in Front Porch Forum. Copies should be placed in the library and Town Clerk's office, and a copy should be given to Jeff Schulz.

Land Conservation: The funding agencies (VHCB and the Vermont Land Trust) may require a conservation easement on the Town Forest in order to access grants. Fundraising will be needed as well.

Rotary: Ruth met with a small but interested and approachable group. They helped to advertise the last hike. We hope to work together further on the Town Plan, Conservation Camp attendees, and conservation initiatives.

NCC Hikes: The hope is to plan another hike potentially October 1. Laura will speak with Russ about scheduling this. The Waterbury Little River State Park was floated as a potential. The last hike included ten people, and a good mix of backgrounds and abilities. The Barre Town Forest would be another good one to visit—good to get to know other Town Forests. The Waitsfield side of Scrag Mountain was another idea for a climb.

Night on the Common-9/26: This is a Tuesday 5:30 – 7:30. NCC can have a booth at the event. Jane will connect with Anne from Friends of the Winooski to see if we can partner up. Jane will also contact Laura Ranker to see if Nathan display his Eagle Scout project (albums, trail markers) and maybe Nathan could attend. Ruth suggested the VT Woodlands Association which has a tree ID exhibit that they loan. Printed materials for handout can be done through the Town.

Meetings Upcoming: The Regional Planning Commission's River and Flood Hazard Bylaws informational event is Thursday 9/14 at 6:00 at the RPC office in Montpelier. This Friday, 9/15, is Municipal Day at the ANR. This is an event for Planning, Conservation, and Energy

Committees and is a day-long training. Cost is \$25.00 which can be paid for through our funds. The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) has the annual meeting 9/23 in Starksboro.

Recreation Trails: The grant is closed out, and we came in \$1,100 under budget! There will be a site visit shortly for quality control and oversight, Russ will attend.

VI. Public Participation (Unscheduled): Liz Atems had some questions about maintenance of the trails. She had noticed that there is no trail marker for the "Summit" part of the Paine Mountain hike, and noted that the Hawk Watch shelter is in poor condition.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jane Pekol, Northfield Conservation Commission

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