

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, December 13, 2017
6:30 P.M. Brown Public Library – Community Room

- I. ROLL CALL:** Present were Commissioners Laura Hill Eubanks, Ruth Ruttenberg, Jane Pekol, and Russ Barrett
- II. SET/ADJUST AGENDA:** None
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):** None
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve July 12, August 9, and September 13 Minutes. Approved 4-0-0. Approval of October 15 and November 8 Minutes tabled.
- V. DISCUSSION**

- a. Paine Mountain Summit Land Conservation Project**

- Liza Walker, of the Vermont Land Trust, and Laura presented to the Select Board at the December 12th meeting on the offer from VLT and VHCB to provide grant funds to purchase the TDS property at the summit of Paine Mountain with the stipulation that the Town Forest be put into conservation easement. The Select Board voiced concern over land use restrictions and believe that the community will be willing to put forth tax payer money to buy the parcel from TDS without the restrictions that the grant requires.

- To try putting the allocation of funds for the purchase of the parcel on the ballot for Town Meeting Day, we need to do a petition drive, need 175 signatures by January 20th. If we don't do the petition drive we need to ask the SB at January meeting whether they will put the full purchase price on the ballot. SB was in favor of doing a ballot item. TDS will be able get a tax deduction for selling the land for less than its value. They may be willing to negotiate further on price.

- Fundraising for a portion of the purchase price could be doable and would be a good use of the Conservation Fund. January 9th will be the next SB meeting. We can reach out to other groups and individuals who would be interested in supporting this initiative. Some outreach on Facebook, Front Porch Forum, regarding the purchase of this property, adding this parcel to the Town Forest.

- Last year's vote for the Conservation Fund was a floor ballot item. Tom Willard of Berlin is on Conservation Commission and was involved with River Conservancy grant conserving 500+ acres of Berlin Pond watershed area. Russ will talk to Tom Willard to see if he has input to give.

- b. Town Forest Stewardship Plan**

- Community forums and release are now tabled until after Town Meeting Day. We will roll out the plan after Town Meeting Day.

- c. Town Meeting Referendum On Renewable Energy**

Ruth made a motion to endorse the Town Meeting Day Resolution on Climate Change, Jane seconded. Approved 4-0-0. NCC can post a link to the document on Facebook. People can download the document and sign and print. Ruth suggests that instructions be put on the petition for where to deliver the signed petitions. Laura suggests creating a Facebook page for the group. Energy portion of the Regional Energy Plan is coming out shortly, a large committee is working on this. Laura is part of the Regional Planning Commission.

d. **Library Display**

Jason Endres may be willing to look at the Town Forest trail map for us and make it more readable. Currently it prints out with very small text and there is a lot of dead space on the page. Jane will email Leslie and Russ to see if we can share the SHAPE files with Jason, plus have them saved somewhere accessible. Map may need to be adjusted from 11x17 size to the 8.5x11 size.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Pekol. These minutes are subject to changes and approval at the next meeting but are substantially correct.