

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2018
6:30 P.M. Brown Community Library

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Present: Laura Hill-Eubanks, Ruth Ruttenberg, Nathaniel Miller, Russ Barrett (by Skype), Jane Pekol
- II. **SET/ADJUST AGENDA:**
- III. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):** None
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 15, 2017, November 8, 2017, December 13, 2017**
Approved (October and November) 4-0-1; Approved December 5-0-0
- V. **DISCUSSION**
 - a. **Paine Mountain Summit Land Conservation Project: TMD vote, fundraising, use of funds**

We have limited time to promote the Town Meeting Day article (#11) that authorizes the town to purchase the property at the summit of Paine Mountain. A “Letter to the Editor” can be sent to Northfield News, Times Argus, and posted online. Paine Mountain brings a lot of economic benefit to the Town. The 1/20 write-up that Laura prepared can be turned into a letter. Nathaniel and Laura will work on this. NCC members will post information about the project on FPF and Facebook. Russ agreed to post a piece on Front Porch Forum.

The purchase contract has not yet been finalized with TDS. Money in the Conservation Fund may be used to pay legal fees associated with finalizing the contract. We will wait to start on fundraising until after Town Meeting Day.
 - b. **Town Meeting Day March 5, 6: table and volunteers for table, issues to cover, speaking at March 5 open session.**

Ruth will be at both sessions doing a Planning Commission survey. The Planning Commission has invited us to share a table with them. A map that shows the Town Forest and the TDS property would be very useful. A fact sheet would also be helpful. Ruth has a four-panel display board. Nathaniel will work on bullet points for a fact sheet. Will need to get maps and fact sheets printed. Laura will plan to speak about the Paine Mountain property purchase in open session on Monday, March 5.
 - c. **Town Forest Stewardship Plan:** tabled.
 - d. **Town Plan comments**

Take a look at the Town Plan, in particular the Natural Resources chapter. Town Plan must be completed by July 2019. Laura will act as PC liaison to the NCC for the Town Plan review, and in late spring will work with the NCC on comments.

e. Conservation Camp

We have \$750 for scholarships now and we need to go into the school to find applicants. There may be more interest in day camp at North Branch. There are day camps for different age ranges around \$250-300 for the week.

f. Winter Carnival

Pam and Jane will work on planning an activity for Winter Carnival. There is some budget money we can use for materials for a Winter Carnival activity. Pam and Jane will let the Commission know what activity we'd like to do, and what support we need.

g. NCC operations: membership, meeting times.

Christine and Don have left the Commission, and Leslie will be leaving soon, so we'll need to have our town webpage updated to reflect the current Commission members. Four will now be a quorum. It would be great to get ecologists or biologists on the Commission. We discussed switching our meeting time to 5:30. Also discussed the possibility of doing meetings Sundays at a local restaurant, maybe 3-5:00 or 4-6:00. Next meeting will be March 11 or 18th at 3:00.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED):

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectfully submitted by Laura Hill-Eubanks. These minutes are subject to change and approval at the next regular meeting but are substantially correct.