

Northfield Conservation Commission Minutes of September 19, 2018

1. Present: L. Hill-Eubanks, R. Ruttenberg, R. Barrett, P. Knox, N. Miller, D. Zuaro
2. Public Participation: Gail Hall from the Northfield Energy Futures group stated she would try and attend NCC meetings to facilitate awareness of what various commissions are doing. Gail, and Jonathan and Forest Spencer asked whether other sites had been considered for the solar farm. Lydia Petty spoke about the outcome of the adult and children's race held on 8-18-18.
3. Ruth moved and Laura seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the 8-15-18 meeting. Motion passed 6-0-0.
4. Discussion items:
 - A joint press release with NCC and TDS regarding the sale of land on Paine Mountain is in process. Members have been asked to review and provide feedback to Laura.
 - Laura has reviewed the wording that will be on the ballot regarding a solar farm on Cheney field.
 - Lydia reported that the Paine mountain footrace was a success. On 8-18-18, 36 adults and 22 kids participated in a run on Paine Mountain. Resolution unanimously approved by the members stating that NCC appreciates all the work that Lydia and her group put into this effort and we strongly support future runs held by this group. Debbie will ask Lydia to write an article for the Northfield News.

- NEF; Northfield Energy futures group, has met. Ruth encouraged this group to obtain formal status as a commission via ballot initiative in March.
 - Emerald ash borer subcommittee of Russ and Ruth drafted an EAB plan for Northfield. 24 people attended the 1st public forum and 14 people including boy scouts attended a training session on EAB. Current estimate of 14,500 ash trees in the road right of way. Russ will look up the inventory of ash in the town forest. A timber sale may be recommended. We also need a wood disposal site. Half of Northfield is in the “danger zone” as EAB has been found in Montpelier. A timeline for action items in the EAB plan was suggested. We also need a comprehensive media plan.
 - Night on the Common: NCC had EAB information on display. The Quilt raffle was a success, raising about \$700 for trail maintenance and signage in the town forest. Lucky winner was Dr. Mark Depman.
 - NCC may hold 1-2 more hikes this Fall. Russ to lead them and suggest dates. First hike will likely be up Scrag Mountain on the weekend of Sept 29-30.
 - The group thought a Fall celebration was in order. Perhaps at Chandra’s property? Debbie to assess the feasibility of this.
5. Debbie moved to adjourn, 2nd by Laura.