

**Northfield Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 16th. 2019**

Present: Pam Knox, Deborah Zuaro, Laura Hill-Eubanks, Russ Barrett (via phone) Members of the public: Lydia Petty, Jonathan Spencer

1. Chair Knox called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. The topic of Water quality classification was added to the agenda.
2. Public participation:
  - Lydia updated the group on the annual Paine Mountain trail race. This will be held on July 13th, 2019 as the August date had conflicts. The run may be expanded to Berlin if landowner permission allows. NCC will determine if they will play a role in this event at a future time.
  - Lydia also shared that a “trails alliance” is forming with the goal of doing volunteer year round trail maintenance in the town forest. The draft town forest management plan calls for a town forest stewardship committee and establishes the make up of its membership and guidelines for their work. The trails alliance could potentially be part of the committee. Russ would be a logical choice to oversee such efforts.
  - A Winter open house is being held at the NU Shaw Outdoor Center on January 26. 2019 from 1-4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.
3. Jonathan shared the wording proposed by the Utilities subcommittee as he attended their recent meeting. The ballot wording for the Cheney field solar project will be discussed at the 1-22-19 select board meeting. He also asked about a rumor that Cheney field parking may be developed. Debbie explained that the “Better Connections Grant” has identified parking for the town forest as a need but that talking about a specific location is premature.
4. Laura moved to approve the minutes of November and December meetings. Debbie seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

5. Cheney field Memo:  
NCC plans to send a letter to the select board, approved by all of us, detailing the legal information regarding the town forest; Cheney field is part of the town forest and owned by the town, and suggesting ballot wording. Russ suggested adding to the description of Cheney field, "the only remaining open space in the town forest". A motion to send this memo was made by Laura, seconded by Debbie, and approved by all. Laura will attend the 1-22-19 select board meeting. It is possible ballot items will not be finalized until the 1-29-19 meeting.
6. NCC report:  
The report to include in the town report is overdue. Pam will ask Ruth if she can write this. Debbie will be the back up if she declines. The report, 400-600 words in length should include the major accomplishments of this past year.
7. Trail Maintenance:  
Lydia has reported an issue with erosion on a trail. This will be looked into. Also, Laura and Russ will work off-line to determine if we should have Arrowood update the map to show the additional Paine Mountain land. It is possible we could do this ourselves.
8. Water Quality Reclassification:  
New state water quality classifications have come out and the regional planning commission wants to know if Northfield wants to help to reclassify parts of the Dog River and ancillary streams. Pam DeAndrea will come to the February 20th meeting to discuss this with us. Please note this should be an agenda item for that meeting.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. motion by Laura, 2nd by Debbie.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Zuaro