

## NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday February 20, 2019

5:30 P.M. Municipal Office

**I. ROLL CALL:** Commissioners Ruth Ruttenberg, Debbie Zuaro, Laura Hill-Eubanks, Russ Barrett (by phone).

### **II. SET/ADJUST AGENDA:**

- a. Applicants for NCC position, EAB grant, AVCC small grants.

### **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 16, 2019:** Tabled.

### **V. DISCUSSION**

- a. **NCC open position:** Debbie will repost notice for recruiting a new NCC member.
- b. **Emerald Ash Borer grant:** Ruttenberg informed the group that the prospect for being awarded funding for the EAB grant looks good.
- c. **AVCC small grants:** NCC will apply for the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) grant. The funds could be used to add and improve signage in the Town Forest.
- d. **NCC Support for GMTA Public Bus Service/Town Meeting Day:** NCC members that were present unanimously support the continued GMTA bus service in Northfield, 4-0-0. Ruttenberg will inform the voters at the Town Meeting Day open session on March 4. She will also thank the voters for their support of the Paine Mountain summit purchase, and keeping Cheney Field in the Town Forest open to the public and undeveloped.
- e. **Natural Resources Inventory of Northfield (including scenic resources and vernal pools identification) and potential funding sources:** NCC will look into potential funding for a Natural Resources Inventory of the town, and possibly scenic resources and vernal pool identification. Ask Arrowwood Environmental about likely cost and potential funding sources. Some funding may be available for watershed inventories, which could include watersheds of the Dog River and Berlin Pond. Might need to educate the public about Vernal pools and map them.
- f. **Current Use:** NCC should promote Current Use program in town to ensure development is focused near the Villages and not in the rural areas. Will make information available to the public.

- g. Town Forest Plan:** The new addition of the summit of Paine Mountain to the Northfield Town Forest should be mapped and inventoried so the information can be added to the Town Forest Stewardship Plan. Will ask CVRPC if they can do the trail map, and Arrowwood if they can do the Natural Resource Inventory (possibly desktop). They may have some of it already done. Also check with New England Wildflower to see what they have from their survey. NCC will plan to roll out the TF Plan in May after Russ returns. Ask Arrowwood if they can assist with holding a public forum on the Plan, potentially in June or July.
- h. Town Plan update:** Planning Commission will be sending NCC the draft Land Use and Natural Resources chapter soon. NCC should review and send comments to the PC.
- i. Water Quality Reclassification project discussion for 3/20 meeting:** Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission will be sending a representative to the NCC March meeting. They'll present information on the state's water quality reclassification project, and invite NCC to participate.

**VI. Other Business:** NCC may plan a spring celebration of the addition of the summit of Paine Mountain to the Town Forest, and its other accomplishments from this past year.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:** NCC adjourned at 7:05 PM.

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