

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting on January 15, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chair Zuaro at 5:38 PM

- I. ROLL CALL:** Attending were Deborah Zuaro, Ruth Ruttenberg, Laura Hill-Eubanks, Russ Barrett (by phone).
- II. SET/ADJUST AGENDA:** Add update on new Town Plan approval process.
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 16, 2019.**
- V. DISCUSSION**

- I. Update on Town Plan approval:** The new draft of the Northfield Town Plan is now being reviewed by the Select Board and will be discussed at their upcoming meetings before the Board makes its decision on whether to approve the Plan as submitted by the Planning Commission. The first public hearing on the Plan took place at the Select Board meeting of January 14. Included in the new Town Plan is a policy to protect the Town Forest from development that is not related to the current uses of conservation, recreation, education, water quality and supply, forestry, and wildlife habitat. One of the Select Board members stated at the hearing that they did not want a policy in the Town Plan that places restrictions on use of the Town Forest land because the town may need it for other uses in the future. NCC will attend the next Select Board meeting, and ask that the policy to protect the Town Forest remain in the Plan. Debbie will represent NCC at the meeting. NCC will also encourage members of the public that would like to support that policy in the Town Plan to let the Select Board know at its meetings or by sending written comments. The next Select Board meeting is on January 28th, and the next public hearing on the Plan is on February 11th.

Ruth made a motion, and Laura seconded, to approve the following resolution:

Resolved: That the Northfield Conservation Commission strongly endorses the Town Plan as submitted to the Select Board by the Planning Commission, including the policy to protect the Northfield Town Forest.

Motion passed 4-0-0. The Resolution will be sent to the Select Board with a request for allowing the NCC time to discuss the policy at the Board's next meeting.

- II. NCC membership and recruitment:** Debbie will post a notice to recruit new members for appointment to the NCC. Recruitment for the new Town Forest Stewardship Subcommittee will be delayed until new members have been appointed to NCC.
- III. Signage for Town Forest:** Ruth explained that the NCC will put up 500 boundary markers around the Northfield Town Forest. A logo was presented for inclusion on the signs. Changes were made to the design of the signs. The logo on the boundary will not be the permanent NCC logo, but will be used on the signs. A logo specifically for NCC will be decided at a later time.

There will also be 5 Welcome signs posted at the entrances to the Town Forest. The signs will include contact information for NCC and the town for more information on the Town

Forest.

Motion made by Laura to approve Ruth's purchase of 500 boundary and 5 welcome signs for the Town Forest. Seconded by Debbie. Motion passed 4-0-0.

IV. Forestry and Canopy Grants:

Ruth updated the members on grant applications. A grant application for a tree plan for Northfield has been submitted. The grant would be for \$5000 and decisions on awards will be announced in March.

The grant application for prevention and mitigation of Emerald Ash Borer damage in the town will be submitted in March. The grant is for \$15,000.

- V. Northfield Ridge and River Routes update:** An open house on the project to improve pedestrian connectivity of areas of the town of Northfield will be held on January 30 at 5:00-7:00 PM in the Community Room of the Brown Public Library. The public is encouraged to attend and provide input.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM by unanimous approval.

These minutes are subject to review and revision at the next scheduled meeting, but are substantially correct.