

**Town of Northfield, Vermont**  
**Northfield Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of September 25, 2024**

1. Roll call: Jeremy, Mariela, Russ, Ruth, Debbie, David and Laura Hill-Eubanks, member of the public
2. Updates to agenda: invitation to attend Planning Commission meeting
3. No scheduled public participation.
4. Ruth moved to approve the minutes of the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ. Approved.
5. Discussion:
  - A. Northfield News submissions: Deadline for November issue is October 10. Ruth will submit a notice about tree planting requests from the public.
  - B. ARPA grant and Youth Trail Project Next Steps: Jeremy and Mariela updated the group on this topic. Superintendent knows of this plan but school board should be updated. Funds need to be committed by December this year.
  - C. Conservation Easement for Town Forest: David, Russ and Laura met with representatives from the Trust for Public Land and the Vermont Land Trust. They would be happy to work with us but no timeline has been established. Many questions remain; would Berlin, NU, School Forest or private landowners want to conserve land? We should anticipate questions the Select Board will have. Everyone gave a “thumbs up” regarding continuing work on this project.
  - D. Forest Protection Zone for Town Forest: Planning Commission has invited NCC to its next meeting on October 1. Jeremy agreed to attend.

## 6. Updates

- A. Tree Grants: Ruth has received 2 dozen requests for trees. The focus is on creating a canopy. Apple trees could be planted in Cheney field near existing trees, along with Oak and Maple. Ruth would like a list of people who want trees. We need an estimate of how many trees could go in Cheney field.
- B. TFSC update: The group is recording volunteer hours for potential use as in-kind match on grants. A trail work day is being planned for October 5<sup>th</sup> (rain date 10-12). Fires continue to occur on town forest land in Cheney field. No fires sign is missing but will be replaced. This problem could be brought to attention of NU/town relations task force.
- C. VOREC update: Last weekend featured a yoga hike and a trail hike led by Russ. A story walk at the Falls Ball field is up until mid-October. The idea to include young families in an appropriate level hike was suggested for the future. Signage is almost finalized and color of trail blazing, maps and signs will be consistent.

7. Public participation Unscheduled: none

8. Other business:

The exhibit on invasive species is now up at the library. Ruth could include this in the news article and perhaps submit a picture.

9. The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Notes by Mariela, write up by Debbie