

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
DOG RIVER PARK COMMITTEE
Minutes of May 8, 2024

I. Roll Call

- a. Russ Barrett, Kim Adams, Simon Pearish

II. Set/Adjust Agenda

- a. No changes

III. Approval of Minutes (April)

- a. Russ motioned, Kim seconded, Passed 3-0-0

IV. Discussion

a. Path reconstruction project

- i. This project is on the contractor's spring schedule.
- ii. An appointment to meet with the contractor on site needs to be scheduled.

b. Spring knotweed cleanup day

- i. A knotweed cleanup day is planned for Thursday, May 16th, 9am-noon.
- ii. Russ will post a call for volunteers on Front Porch Forum, including a request for wheelbarrows/carts.
- iii. Russ will ask the town to move the pile of knotweed that was generated during cleanup that followed the July 2023 flood to make room for new live material. The old pile of knotweed appears to be lifeless and may not pose a regrowth threat. However, in an abundance of caution the pile will be placed onto a plastic sheet to prevent it from setting root. We are suggesting that the pile be moved a short distance to the south into the lawn so that we can continue to monitor it for regrowth.
- iv. The walking path near the river was made uneven in the December 2023 flood and should be raked smooth to allow mowing and safer pedestrian access.

- c. Living willow structure
 - i. Simon constructed a small test structure in the form of a ten foot section of living willow fence. The fence will provide shade for an existing park bench and has a small archway to provide interest for children.
 - ii. If the structure takes root and begins to grow, as planned, the community will be solicited for feedback about the structure and the prospect of created larger living willow structures in the park in the future.
- d. Member updates
 - i. Kim reports that the Master Gardeners have started spring maintenance in the pollinator garden. The garden is regenerating well.
 - ii. Simon will get an estimate of mulch needs for trees in the park from Bonnie and request mulch from the town.

V. Public Participation (unscheduled)

VI. Adjournment