

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
Northfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of August 24, 2022

I. ROLL CALL: Nigel called the meeting to order at 6:20 with Nigel, Debbie, Russ, Jeremy, David and Ruth in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY, 2022: Ruth moved to approve the minute of July 27, 2nd by Jeremy. Unanimous.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): Jared Carpenter, Mad Dog Trout joined the meeting for the discussion of the Dog River Symposium.

IV. UPDATES & DISCUSSION

a. Dog River Symposium. An overview of the program was reviewed:

1:00--Fish Hatchery Visit

2:30—Flume Table set up

3:00—Panel discussion with 3 speakers from ANR:

Gretchen Alexander, river scientist, Will Eldridge from Fish & Wildlife, and Karen Bates, the DEC watershed coordinator

4:00--Community discussion with other conservation commissions and partner organizations around key issues; access, dam removals, stocking vs non-stocking to determine priorities potential recommendations.

Partner organizations will have tables set up with information; North Branch Nature Center, WNRCD, Friends of the Winooski, Mad Dog Trout and others. The symposium will be streamed and recorded.

A checklist was distributed to members to help coordinate poster distribution, publicity, set up and clean-up activities. Jared will publicize the event to the Mad Dog Trout membership. Many co-sponsors are also publicizing the event and enthusiastic about the quality of the program.

b. Emerald Ash Borer update to Select Board. Russ will attend a Select Board meeting in September to give the update about EAB. It was suggested that ARPA monies could support proactive ash removals.

c. VOREC Grant. Debbie reported that the RFP for the wayfinding masterplan is due in September. The Northfield News featured an article on the restored Lybrand/Slate Avenue trail. Vermont Sports Magazine has requested information on Northfield's VOREC project for an upcoming issue.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Saturday, August 27 at 2:00 to officially open the restored trail.

d. Town Forest Access Study, Final Report: No discussion

e. Tree Planting Grant. Tom Trombley is ordering trees now. Ruth and Russ will place stakes where the trees are to be planted. The town will water the trees and will order watering bags to use in doing this. We need to ensure trees are properly watered once planted. Ruth will set up a meeting with Russ, Pat Demasi and Jeff Schulz to discuss how this will be done.

Another grant opportunity is coming up. The group agreed that we should participate in this as there are many places that would benefit from additional tree planting.

f. Town Forest Stewardship Committee. The group did not meet in August. Signs will be ordered soon so that they can be posted quickly. Nelson, Russ, Mat and Jeremy have volunteered to post the signs.

V. Public Participation (Unscheduled): None

VI. Other Business

a. Future meeting topic for discussion: Russ suggested we begin looking into how to proceed to do a geomorphic survey of streams feeding into the Dog River. The ANR website shows the present geomorphic survey, last performed in 2008 when the NCC was formed.

b. Recruitment of a High School Student for vacant NCC position. David and Ruth are attempting to reach Luke Foley to discuss candidates for a seat on the conservation commission.

VII. Adjournment: At 7:26 on a motion by Russ, 2nd by Debbie, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Zuaro