

NORWICH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2010

Present: Genevieve Morinville, Peter Silberfarb, David Hubbard, Dan Goulet, Frank Olmstead, Steve Gaughan Absent: Craig Layne, Brian Kunz, Bill Pierce

Public present: Peg Merrens

Conservation Priorities

Peg Merrens of the Upper Valley Land Trust discussed possible conservation priorities with the Commission. Possible acquisition of the Patashnik property on Campbell Flats Road was mentioned, although Peg said there had been no contact of the UVLT on this matter. The Conservation plan for property on Bragg Hill Road was discussed, and Peg said that the Bank that holds the mortgage is not completely committed to the conservation plan but is open to discussions. This property is facing foreclosure.

Peg said the UVLT has been accepting more gifts of land that it will own rather than just holding and monitoring conservation easements.

Peg also noted the conservation goals of the Norwich Town Plan: unfragmented blocks for wildlife, farmland (including for scenic value), ridgelines and hillsides, and trail corridors.

The Commission discussed briefly how it might begin to develop conservation priorities for use of the Norwich Conservation Trust Fund.

River Access

Peter Silberfarb spoke in favor of the Town's effort to acquire the Patashnik property if it was not bidding against the owner. He and others noted that this issue is now before the Selectboard and there is no need for immediate action by the Commission.

Invasive Species

Peter also discussed the possibility of effort to control Japanese Knotweed in Town, although the discussion revealed that this species may be more difficult to eradicate than originally seemed to be the case. Peter said he would contact the Trails Committee about identifying a spot near the northern end of the Ballard Trail might be appropriate to consider.

The Source to Sea cleanup of the Connecticut River will be on October 2, 2010 this year. Several Commissioners were interested in participating again, and also thought the effort by King Arthur Flour last year should be encouraged for this year.

David Hubbard reported that the Trails Committee would continue to notify people in Town of its work days. There was also some discussion of the Trails Committee investigating in posting the Norwich trails on the Trailfinder website. David will bring this up at the next Trails Committee meeting.

Approval of the minutes of the May 18, 2010 meeting was moved (Olmstead) and seconded (Goulet). The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Olmstead,
Vice Chair & Acting Secretary