

Norwich Conservation Commission Minutes, 15 March 2011

Present: P. Silberfarb, D. Goulet, F. Olmstead, D. Hubbard, C. Layne

Absent: G. Morinville, B. Kunz, B. Pierce, S. Gaughan

Commencement 7:05 pm

Discussed the potential need for a town web-master to facilitate more active board, commission and committee websites; F. Olmstead will discuss with the town manager.

Discussed S. Gaughan exploring the setup of an independent NCC website and showing others on the commission how to update material.

Discussed targeted data collection in town to assess habitat qualities, wildlife corridors, greenway areas and natural communities instead of pursuing a full Natural Resources Inventory. Discussed communicating with Lebanon and Woodstock commissions about the projects they did.

Discussed hosting public lectures in town on such topics as Vermont bats, invasive plants, wildlife in the upper valley and the ecology and natural history of the Appalachian Trail (AT). Will be pursuing, for sometime in the near future, a speaker about bat biology and conservation.

Discussed insights gleaned from Town Eating Day. F. Olmstead, D. Goulet and P. Silberfarb were in attendance. The idea of Norwich being an AT Host Town was of particular interest to the group.

F. Olmstead moved, and C. Layne seconded, that the NCC contribute up to \$3k to the phase II geomorphic assessment of the Ompompanoosuc River being overseen by the Ompompanoosuc River Watershed Council and the Thetford Conservation Commission, contingent upon the TCC obtaining the balance of the \$9k funds still required (\$13k have already been secured) and the three Norwich field sites remaining in the project. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussed the wildlife-tracking road-crossing project maps, which the Norwich Trackers are using to guide their collection of data about where animals are crossing, developed by Jonathan Frishtick, Nick Krembs and C. Layne. C. Layne moved, and D. Goulet seconded, that the NCC reimburse J. Frishtick \$135 for his billable hourly service as a GIS consultant. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment 7:55 pm

Minutes submitted by C. Layne