

Norwich Conservation Commission approved minutes of 19 February 2013

Present: David Hubbard, Dan Goulet, Steve Gaughan, Frank Olmstead, Craig Layne

Absent: Norm Miller, Bill Pierce, Martha Graber, Peter Silberfarb

Public Present: Sarah Reeves

Commencement 7:04 pm

Sarah Reeves presented the informal Norwich Open Spaces Priorities plan. The commission was asked if they thought a project working with landowners in the area between Main Street and Hopson Road is something that could be started. A discussion about landowner liability with respect to trail permissions followed. Commission members are under the impression Vermont law provides liability protections for landowners, if people have accidents crossing their lands without permission, and provides even more protections when landowners allow public access on their land. These laws may have been associated with the establishment of VAST trails.

D. Hubbard reported that the trails committee will be working with the UVTA to do bridge work on Norwich trails. The Gile Mountain trail work will continue this season with new tools, including a high-line apparatus. Flagging of a prospective trail has been begun for the Hazen trail re-routing. Regarding Huntley meadow trail work D. Hubbard is insuring riparian zone protections.

Wildlife camera reports and pictures were requested from those who monitor each individual camera. These monitors were reminded to replace the camera batteries. More camera data are needed and the monitors will be sending pictures to C. Layne.

F. Olmstead motioned (D. Hubbard 2nd) the approval of the January 2013 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Next meeting is Tuesday, 19 March 2013.

Adjournment 8:26 pm

Minutes submitted by C. Layne, secretary