

Norwich Conservation Commission draft minutes of 17 May 2016

Present: Craig Layne, Jennifer Goulet, Peter Silberfarb, Phyllis Katz, Chris Rimmer, David Hubbard

Absent: Martha Graber, Norm Miller, David Hobson

Public: Gerad Dunne, Phil Dechert

Commencement 7:00 pm

April minutes moved for approval (P. Silberfarb 1st, D. Hubbard 2nd), approved unanimously.

G. Dunne talked about the Norwich loop trail group, goals and process. The goal is to have connected trails around town on which private landowners allow public access. The group is interested in working with the NCC to address concerns about disturbances in unfragmented forests and important habitats. Members of the commission expressed interest in the project and hope to hear more as plans develop.

D. Hubbard recapped the opportunity the CRWC has resented, to organize a feasibility study to assess the potential removal of the Charles Brown Brook reservoir dam. A letter from the Prudential Committee was discussed and a reply to their concerns will be forthcoming. Many of the points in the letter would be addressed by a feasibility study, others by input from state fisheries biologists, and still others by a visit from a wetlands biologist. The NCC remains enthusiastic about supporting a feasibility study regarding the dam removal.

Invasive plant talks, workshops and factsheets were discussed. They have all been well received. Wild Parsnip will be the next factsheet distributed.

Adjournment 8:45 pm

Minutes submitted by C. Layne, secretary