

Norwich Conservation Commission draft minutes of 19 January 2016

Present: Craig Layne, David Hubbard, David Hobson, Chris Rimmer, Jennifer Goulet, Martha Graber, Bill Pierce

Absent: Peter Silberfarb, Norm Miller

Public: Ron Rhodes, Nick Krembs, Liz Russell, Peg Merrens

Commencement 7:10 pm

B. Pierce motioned (J. Goulet 2nd) approval of November minutes, approved unanimously.

Ron Rhodes from the CRWC presented the progress treating the Phragmites patch at the upstream end of the Ompompanoosuc estuary. After a treatment in the spring the plants did not tassel so the follow-up cutting did not happen. This spring the rate of 2015 success will be assessed, and if less than 90%, contractor follow-up will be investigated; if more than 90% volunteer cutting may be feasible. He also reported that he is available to work on dam removal and stream restoration projects. Two along Charles Brown Brook were discussed, restoration of the pool dam area and removal of the drinking water reservoir. The restoration would involve 2016 grant applications for 2017 projects. Possible funding sources include USFW, VTFW, NHCharitable, MEF and ANR all of which would be sought by the CRWC. The select board would need to be fully involved to ask the CRWC to be involved. The removal project would involve 2016 grant applications for 2017 and 2018 engineering and ground work.

Peg Merrens from UVLT presented updates on the Sullivan farm sale and conservation easement, a \$250,000 project. Half of the easement costs will be covered by a federal grant. A matching state grant and local contributions are being sought. The land trust is asking the NCC for an 11% (\$30,000) contribution from the conservation trust fund. C. Rimmer made a motion that the commission ask the select board to approve the use of the \$30,000 from the conservation trust fund (B. Pierce 2nd), approved unanimously.

Nick Krembs requested a bridge loan to cover \$3,635 in costs for Gile Trail work until the fundraising can take over the costs. The annual budget does not have enough funds to cover the costs, so the loan would need to be drawn from the conservation trust fund and repaid. C. Rimmer made a motion that the bridge loan be made by asking the select board to use the \$3,635 from the trust fund to cover costs, to be repaid by the trails committee from their fundraising (D. Hopson 2nd), approved 4-3 (1 no and 2 abstentions). Nick also reported on the effort to increase connectivity among Norwich trails as well as the wildlife habitat considerations and VYCC projects that have been discussed.

C. Rimmer presented his plans to write quarterly articles about invasive plants for the Norwich Times. The cost for the space is \$250 per issue. J. Goulet moved that the NCC spend the \$250 for the space in the upcoming issue (M. Graber 2nd), approved unanimously.

Adjournment 8:25 pm

Minutes submitted by C. Layne, secretary