

Norwich Conservation Commission draft minutes of 21 June 2016

Present: Craig Layne, Jennifer Goulet, Chris Rimmer, Martha Graber, Norm Miller, David Hobson, David Hubbard

Absent: Peter Silberfarb, Phyllis Katz

Commencement 7:05 pm

May minutes moved for approval (C. Rimmer 1<sup>st</sup>, D. Hobson 2<sup>nd</sup>), approved unanimously.

D. Hopson reported on the invasive plants fact sheets and will let the group what is coming up next. J. Goulet reported that the Norwich Times Fall issue will include the gardening with native plants article. C. Rimmer suggested another field session in the nature area. The nature area committee will be contacted. Emails from the public about the fact sheets were discussed and the Commission will get back to those who make inquiries. One public comment was about it being time to mow the wild parsnip before it goes to seed. D. Hubbard reported the town has begun mowing, along Hopson road being one of the first locations and the mowing is being done farther out from the road this year. The Commission will see if any other VT towns have invasive-based mowing schedules. Another public comment inquired about Japanese knotweed. That fact sheet is forthcoming and the VT invasives website materials will be consulted for advice about control.

N. Miller suggested that the commission do more with bird conservation. Pragmatic ideas included gardening for birds (articles or workshops) and public education about [conscientious](#) coffee choices as well as local conservation efforts. Perhaps the commission could host evenings with experts and films, maybe a film series. Ideas will be discussed at the July meeting.

J. Goulet reported that the Prudential Committee of the Fire District called a special meeting and decided to support a feasibility study about dam removal. The study will be done this year.

J. Goulet reported about a possible Keeping Track talk in Norwich about cougars, hopefully jointly sponsored with local nonprofit organizations. C. Rimmer indicated that VCE could be a co-sponsor.

The Land Management Committee inquired about a letter coming jointly from them and the commission to the select board about the need to assess the condition of the bridge over Charles Brown brook on Brown Schoolhouse road. The Commission would like to hear the opinion of the Trails Committee.

Adjournment 8:05 pm

Minutes submitted by C. Layne, secretary