

Norwich Conservation Commission draft minutes of 21 July 2015

Present: Jen Gillrich, Martha Graber, David Hobson, David Hubbard, Norm Miller, Bill Pierce, Chris Rimmer, Peter Silberfarb

Absent: Craig Layne

Public Present: George Clark, Neil Fulton, Jeannie McIntyre, Lee Michaeladis, Harry Roberts, Lily Trajman

Commencement 7:05pm

Bill Pierce moved (seconded by Norm Miller) that the Commission add the following statement to the minutes: "We recognize that the targeted application of herbicides should only be used when all other management options are exhausted." This motion was approved unanimously.

David Hubbard provided an update from Lindsay Putnam regarding the ongoing management of invasive species in the Milt Frye Nature Area: foliar spraying in the wooded area is nearly complete, and a post-treatment assessment with Windsor County Extension Forester Jon Bouton is being scheduled; Extension Forestry personnel could be available to stage a follow-up educational session if need be; the mowing of the Pisch Orchard area is finished and was completed roughly four times faster than last year.

David Hubbard, Chris Rimmer, and Harry Roberts reported on field observations of roadside invasive species and discussed the need for a comprehensive management plan and public education program. Development of a sustained education program is to be discussed at next month's meeting.

Jeannie McIntyre from the Upper Valley Land Trust gave an update regarding the 3 ongoing projects they have in Norwich: easement language for the John Wiggins property is being drafted and baseline documentation is being collected, and the project is on track for conclusion at the end of the summer; UVLT acquired the Norwich Farms property on July 16, and preliminary boundary, inventory, and mapping work is in progress; UVLT is awaiting the appraisal for the Sullivan Property before finalizing a budget for the project, and a grant application was just submitted to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

Peter Silberfarb moved (seconded by Bill Pierce) that the Conservation Commission declare its support for the UVLT grant application to help fund the purchase on a conservation easement on the Sullivan Property. This motion was approved unanimously.

Norm Miller moved (seconded by Bill Pierce) that David Hubbard work with Jeannie McIntyre to draft a letter of support from the Conservation Commission to the Selectboard. This motion was approved unanimously.

Chris Rimmer provided an update on the trial deployment of the iNaturalist smartphone app for documenting invasive species sightings.

George Clark gave an update on recent Trails Committee activities: new trails on the Norwich Farms parcel are being planned for integration into existing networks on abutting town lands; the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps has installed a new bridge on the Ballard Trail; Gile Mountain trailwork is proceeding in the area around the powerline and at higher elevations. Gile Mountain Trail workdays are scheduled for September 13, September 27, and October 18. The next Trails Committee meeting is on Wednesday, August 5.

Norm Miller reported on an unstable embankment along New Boston Road that, should it collapse, could alter the flow of New Boston Brook and damage a bridge along New Boston Road.

Norm Miller discussed the need for an inventory of town flora and fauna.

Minutes from the June 2015 meeting were accepted by Norm Miller (seconded Peter Silberfarb) and approved unanimously.

Adjournment 8:45pm.

Next NCC meeting is Tuesday, 18 August 2015.

Minutes submitted by David Hobson.