

Norwich Conservation Commission draft minutes of 18 October 2016

Present: Craig Layne, Jennifer Goulet, Phyllis Katz, David Hubbard, Norm Miller, Peter Silberfarb, David Hobson

Absent: Chris Rimmer

Public: Jonathan Frishtick, Phil Dechert

Commencement 7:00 pm

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

N. Miller and P. Silberfarb presented an outline for a “celebration of birds” day event in the spring hopefully involving the elementary school, library, VINS, VCE, NCC, and boy scouts.

P. Silberfarb and C. Layne will work on completing the goutweed fact sheet.

J. Goulet initiated a discussion of who might be at the catamount talk on the 28th to help with set up, help with break down, and to stand by a table to talk about invasive plants with attendees. N. Miller, P. Silberfarb, P. Katz, J. Goulet, and D. Hubbard will attend and some of them will help with set up after 5:30.

P. Dechert presented the latest Planning Commission work on a potential higher density mixed-use zone, with possible inclusion of affordable housing, in the Rte. 5 corridor. The commission asked about issues around wetlands, rare plants, wildlife habitats, erosion controls, sloughs, and septic handling.

J. Frishtick reported back that the landowners with the New Boston possible test case Japanese knotweed patches are supportive about controlling it. D. Hubbard will consult with the landowners across the road where there is also a patch. J. Goulet presented an approach of using the scientific method to get a paper out of the test case, thereby possibly increasing public awareness and interest. J. Frishtick presented a possible cutting plan and D. Hubbard outlined delineations of patches for study. J. Goulet reported there is a statewide coordinator for such work. He will be contacted. There may also be funds to work on the plant in general and specifically at site where Irene enabled spread, like near Huntley meadow.

The FY2018 budget proposal has been submitted to Tracy Hall with a requested increase of \$1000 to do more management and conservation projects, making a possible total budget of \$7950.

The commission decided to pass on submitting an autumn article to the Norwich Times and will instead focus on something for the winter.

The Gile mountain trail and its amount of traffic were discussed. The trailhead needs a larger parking lot to keep cars from parking along the road.

The Pool committee minutes were discussed. The commission will follow the pool committee's progress.

There will unfortunately soon be another open seat on the commission. Thank you, Phyllis.

Adjournment 8:10 pm

Minutes submitted by C. Layne, secretary