

Norwich Conservation Commission draft minutes of 19 December 2016

Present: Craig Layne, David Hubbard, Peter Silberfarb, David Hobson, Mary Sellman, Jennifer Goulet, Norm Miller

Absent: Chris Rimmer

Public: Don McCabe, Doug Hardy, Gered Dunne

Commencement 7:00 pm

November minutes moved for approval (D. Hubbard 1st, D. Hopson 2nd), approved unanimously.

N. Miller reported on the progress of planning for 2017's bird week. The elementary school, library and Boy Scouts of America are involved. Speakers are being lined up. VINS and VCE will be involved. D. McCabe added to the report with more details about school electives (migration, habitats, song, etc.) and other kids activities. The school is excited about the project. Norm further reported on the bird art to be at the library and Ronin Donovan works that might be shown during the week. P. Silberfarb checked to see that rooms are being reserved and the Girl Scouts have been invited to be involved.

C. Layne reported on the Pollinators Workshops Series. The NCC is a collaborating organization of the Upper Valley Pollinator Planners and their lecture series, "To bee or not to bee: why native pollinators matter" and will hopefully host some related workshop activities (e.g. pollinators of orchards, annual crops, and forests) in the late spring and summer. The list of winter speakers around the upper valley will be out soon and the group is working to help local gardeners start 100 "pollinator gardens".

J. Goulet and D. Hubbard reported on the Japanese knotweed landowner's permission and state recommendations for control. Jennifer and J. Frishtick will be digesting all of the recommendations and boiling them down to advice about how we should proceed with the experimental plot along New Boston Rd.

J. Goulet reported on the Senior Center invasive plants removal project. She referenced the list of native replacement plants that will be consulted and is available on the NCC Google drive.

C. Layne reported on some of the discussion from the Trails Committee meeting in early December. An article about the importance of unfragmented and undisturbed forest areas to wildlife will still be drafted by D. Hubbard, M. Sellman, and C. Layne in January for submission to the Norwich Times. The trails committee has some concern that an article about the trade-offs implicit to decisions about individual and collective forest management might be divisive. D. Hardy and G. Dunne discussed the importance of forest trails as access to the benefits that forest experiences provide us. Recreation and wildlife concerns are parts of a conservation ethic. The path to achieving benefits for both concerns likely involves informed planning, data based decision-making, and the use of best practices by everyone from individual landowners to town boards, commissions, and committees.

Adjournment 7:55

Minutes Submitted by C. Layne