

Norwich Conservation Commission draft minutes of 21 November 2017

Present: Craig Layne, David Hubbard, Mary Sellmann, Lynnwood Andrews, David Hobson, Chris Rimmer, Peter Silberfarb

Public: Linda Gray

Absent: Courtney Dragiff, Norm Miller

Commencement 7:00 pm

October minutes moved for approval as written by D. Hubbard (P. Silberfarb 2nd), approved unanimously.

The NCC has agreed to write a column for each issue of the Norwich Times in 2018. Possible near-term topics include invasive knotweed, invasive earthworms, the village nature area specifically, nature areas and town forests in general, planning for resilience in a changing climate, conservation reasons for a town plan. C. Rimmer will check with the Times about the column cost and advanced deadline warnings for each issue.

The chair started discussion of chapters 11 and 12 in the town plan. Discussion topics included how well written it is, how reasonable the goals and objectives are, but at the same time how non-committal the goals/objectives/actions are, how there are inconsistencies between protecting agricultural soils that predominantly found in the CT river valley and CT river valley development, and how scale of development should take into account the town size as a whole. The nature of the plan as a record of values and priorities instead of as a manual of instructions was discussed. It was mentioned that there will be opportunity for suggesting edits in the near future during work on the Town Plan regarding an Enhanced Energy Plan. Starting on Tuesday, 5 December, in Tracy Hall a group will be meeting about energy planning in town. NCC members are invited to participate. The group will hopefully be made up of members from Planning, Energy, and Conservation Commissions, plus anyone else who would like to participate. The NCC will ask the NPC to update it in January on the short-term and long-term town plan process and how the NCC can help.

D. Hubbard reiterated the desire of the Trails Committee to stay under the umbrella of the NCC and reviewed their new mission statement. P. Silberfarb pointed out since the Trails Committee is remaining as an NCC committee, the NCC should vote to approve the mission statement. Commissioners will read it for the January meeting, discuss it, and vote on it.

C. Rimmer asked that we start thinking about what scaled-back, re-targeted version of Bird Week we would like to do in 2018. Bird banding was very popular in 2017; what other activities would be popular and worth doing again?

C. Rimmer and P. Silberfarb reported on the climate change action meeting. They shared some handouts they collected.

L. Gray asked that the NCC support a Norwich resolution on climate change similar to the one from South Burlington.

A shortened edited version the NCC supports was quickly drafted (see below), moved for endorsement by D. Hubbard, seconded by Mary Sellmann, and approved unanimously.

Adjournment 8:35

Minutes Submitted by C. Layne