

Norwich Conservation Commission Meeting
Draft Minutes
June 19, 2018

In attendance: Lynwood Andrews, Courtney Dragiff, Craig Layne, David Hobson, David Hubbard, Norm Miller, Mary Sellmann, Brie Swenson

Absent: Chris Rimmer

Commencement: 7:10pm

Approval of May minutes was moved by Courtney Dragiff, seconded by Mary Sellmann, and approved unanimously.

David Hubbard proposed updating the post office display with information about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), including information leading viewers to www.vtinvasives.org. Lynwood Andrews will assist with this, and with getting word out about EAB on the Norwich listserv.

The Connecticut River Conservancy is cataloguing recreational sites along the Connecticut River, in conjunction with the relicensing of dams, and is interested in including sites in Norwich. Is Selectboard approval required for listing Norwich sites with the CTRC? Craig has contacted the town manager to find out what is required.

Invasive Plants Strategic Plan. There was a broad discussion of the best way to marshal limited resources towards combating invasive species in Norwich, and how the existing Japanese knotweed project on New Boston Road can be leveraged into an actual study measuring the efficacy of treatment. Craig Layne proposed focusing on those areas least affected by invasives and working outward, rather than focusing on areas that are already overrun with multiple invasives. The open question is how to best catalogue and prioritize these areas.

Mary Sellmann proposed using the Melendy parcel as a testbed for different invasive control methods. This parcel is not currently being tilled for agriculture. The commission also discussed active outreach to local farms and Marion Cross to use the Melendy parcel.

Brie Swenson reported on the opening of the Areson property by the UVLT, and proposed a property visit to assess the proposed trail network. Brie also reported on a proposal for potential professional mapping of the Norwich trail system.

A general discussion followed about the roles of the Conservation Commission and Trails Committee, the relationship between the two entities, and how best to foster communication and collaboration between them.

Norm Miller reported on an opportunity to sponsor educational nature and wildlife films at the White River Indie Film Festival in the summer of 2019.

Meeting adjourned 8:20pm.