

Norwich Conservation Commission Meeting
Draft Minutes
July 16, 2019

In attendance: Lynnwood Andrews, Cheryl Asa, David Hobson, David Hubbard, Craig Layne, Norm Miller, Chris Rimmer, and Cody Williams

Public: Michelle Davis and Paige Greenfield (Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission), Vicky Herzberg, Charlotte Metcalf, and Sage McGinley-Smith.

Absent: Mary Sellmann

Commencement: 7:00 pm.

Public comment. Vicky Herzberg reported on a potential erosion and invasive species problem along the bank of Beaver Meadow Road where it crosses Blood Brook. Charlotte Metcalf expressed an interest in the impact of impervious surface covering on the quality of surface runoff. The public, the TRORC delegation, and the commission discussed assessment and reporting mechanisms for roadside erosion problems and potential funding sources for repairing damaged segments.

Paige Greenfield reported on the activities of the TRORC and how their work might be useful to the commission. Ms. Greenfield was accompanied by Michelle Davis and was attending the meeting to establish a line of communication and set the stage for future collaboration with the commission. The commission discussed its role in advising the Planning Commission about the update to the town plan, forest connectivity, forest fire prevention, invasive species, mercury contamination in vernal pools, and climate change.

David Hobson provided an update on the Milt Frye Nature Area. The update to the forest management plan has been approved by the Upper Valley Land Trust and preliminary steps have been taken to implement some of the recommendations in the plan. A site visit with Lindsay Putnam earlier in July revealed a resurgence of invasive species in a handful of areas, both in the interior forest and along the field-forest edge that has been historically mowed by the town but is no longer maintained. The commission discussed organizing several volunteer workdays to remove invasives, and to reach out to the Department of Public Works to provide input on mowing the field-forest edge.

Cody Williams discussed creating a standalone website for the commission.

David Hubbard shared a draft of the Trails Committee's goals for the planning commission.

Cheryl Asa shared a biodiversity and ecological assessment of Charlotte Metcalf's property, conducted by Moosewood Ecological Services over a period of 2 years. Craig Layne commented on the community-oriented focus of the assessment's creation, and proposed establishing neighborhood-level land conservation groups in Norwich.

The commission and public discussed the status of the town plan update and concerns over Act 250 exemptions to proposed development.

Approval of June minutes was moved by David Hubbard, seconded by Norm Miller, and approved unanimously with a single abstention (Chris Rimmer).

Meeting adjourned 8:56pm.