

Norwich Conservation Commission Minutes, 19 April 2011

Present: G. Morinville, F. Olmstead, B. Pierce, C. Layne, P. Silberfarb, D. Hubbard, S. Gaughan, M. Graber

Absent: D. Goulet

Commencement 7:05 pm

We welcomed Martha Graber to the commission.

Citizens from the Cliff Street area (Deborah Boettiger, Nelson Kasfir, Richard Haedrich, Liz Blum and the NCC's Steve Gaughan) were in attendance and presented concerns about the potential subdivision of the 5.1-acre parcel containing the large wetland that collects, holds and filters the waters flowing from Hawk Pine through the cliff and into the stream behind the elementary school. A wetland ecologist from the VT ANR Dept. of Environmental Conservation has preliminarily indicated that the Cliff Street wetland is class II, a state-recognized and therefore protected wetland. She will be returning to make an official designation. In addition, the delineation of the wetland by the property owner's consultant is suspected by local citizens to be an under-representation of the wetland's extent.

P. Silberfarb made a motion, second by M. Graber, that the NCC urge the DRB to make no decisions about the subdivision until after the official visit by the wetland ecologist and until the wetland delineation can be confirmed (approved unanimously).

D. Hubbard reported that bank-stabilizing trees, shrubs and other riparian plants were unfortunately cut-down in Huntley Meadow Park. He will relay to the town manager our concerns about such management of riparian vegetation along Blood Brook. A re-planting of trees along the bank tops is in order and could be done by the NCC and concerned citizens.

F. Olmstead reported that the NCC page on the town website can have materials added. The NCC may setup its own .org website linked to the town website in order to facilitate and control which other off-site links may be included.

F. Olmstead reported that Woodstock is happy with their Natural Resources Inventory done by a hired ecologist.

P. Silberfarb reported that he is endeavoring to secure Scott Darling from VT F&W to deliver a Norwich public lecture about bats on Monday, 23 May, downstairs in Tracy Hall.

G. Morinville reported that the Ompompanoosuc River Watershed Council is still pursuing a grant to fund their geomorphic assessment.

D. Hubbard reported that the Trails Committee is seeking a large grant to facilitate trail work and maintenance.

C. Layne reported that at least one large-acreage landowner from Norwich would be attending the VNRC Forest Legacy summit at Lake Morey on 30 April. He also made a motion, second by F. Olmstead, that Norwich residents attending the workshop could have their \$30 registration fee reimbursed by the NCC (approved unanimously).

Minutes from the January and March 2011 meetings were approved.

Adjournment 8:50 pm

Minutes submitted by C. Layne