

Norwich Conservation Commission approved minutes of 17 July 2012

Present: Dan Goulet, Steve Gaughan, Martha Graber, Craig Layne, Peter Silberfarb, Frank Olmstead

Absent: Bill Pierce, David Hubbard

Commencement 7:05 pm

F. Olmstead moved (D. Goulet seconded) approval of May minutes and they were approved unanimously.

S. Gaughan moved (M. Graber seconded) approval of June minutes and they were approved unanimously.

The commission advises that any replacement dam at the Norwich pool include a diversion spillway initiated upstream at a height equal to the mean annual flow of Charles Brown brook. Such a spillway would be intended to alleviate normal high flow pressure on the dam while at the same time providing upstream and downstream passage for fish, salamanders and invertebrates. The commission also advises minimizing manipulation to the stream and riparian forests by not doing stream work any farther upstream or downstream than necessary.

Sampling by a Dartmouth biology course revealed that trout, dace and sculpin are now using some reconstructed Huntley meadow areas in Blood brook. One area not used by any fish is where all of the stream bottom rocks were removed to do bank stabilization; that reach has become void of almost all life. A Dartmouth student will be further studying Blood brook in the Huntley meadow area. This study will examine the algal and invertebrate changes associated with stream reconstruction. It will make use of rock baskets and clay pots that will hopefully not be disturbed by other stream visitors.

Driveway culvert use and misuse was discussed. The commission advises, whenever a bridge cannot be used, that over-sized, D-shaped culverts be used. The state has the same advice described in their literature, which is available upon request.

The terribly “hanging” culvert at the mouth of Blood brook was discussed. The commission will look into the possibility of federal highway funds for state transportation work to convert the “hanging” culvert to the cascade that would otherwise be there.

Wild parsnip was recently discussed in town circles. It is spreading quickly along town roads and meadows. It can ruin hay. To remove it pulling it up by the roots is recommended; gloves and long sleeves should be worn because the plant contains sunlight-activated irritants that can cause a terrible skin reaction. If cutting of it is going to be done, it should be done before fruiting in order to not spread seeds.

M. Graber reported that a VINS bird exhibit will go up in the post office in September.

F. Olmstead moved (D. Goulet seconded)
Adjournment 7:55 pm

Minutes submitted by Craig Layne