

Norwich Conservation Commission draft minutes of 15 March 2016

Present: David Hubbard, Jen Goulet, Peter Silberfarb, Norm Miller, Bill Pierce, David Hobson, Chris Rimmer, Martha Graber
Absent: Craig Layne

Meeting commencement at 7:04PM

David Hubbard motioned (Chris Rimmer 2nd) approval of January minutes, approved unanimously.

The commission discussed the progress of the invasive plant education working group, including feedback from the current article in the Norwich Times and scheduling of the next one; an increased focus on choosing and sourcing native replacements for exotic invasives; adjusting the order in which invasives will be highlighted.

Peter Silberfarb reported on a meeting with Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) regarding the Charles Brown Brook reservoir dam. Grants are available for a feasibility study for removal of the reservoir dam (1/2 mile upstream of the Norwich Pool site). CRWC needs approval from the town to move forward with grant applications. During the next fiscal year, CRWC would require \$4,300 to study the dam removal, with the remainder of the funds (\$12,000 total) coming from CRWC grants.

Bill Piece gave a budget report. FY 2016 ends on June 30th, 2016, and currently there is \$787 remaining in the Commission budget. Of that, \$250 is allocated to the Norwich Times.

Norm Miller motioned (Chris Rimmer 2nd) for a reallocation of \$2,000 to fund the CRWC feasibility study, approved unanimously. The \$2,000 will be available on 7/1/2016 for FY2017.

David Hubbard gave a Trails Committee report. There has been a successful fundraising effort of \$8,500 for Gile Mountain Trail restoration.

The commission reviewed current member terms and expirations. David Hubbard and Martha Graber will renew their terms, which expire in 2016. The Commission bid farewell to Bill Pierce, who is retiring from after serving a 10 year term.

The commission discussed candidates for a new chair and treasurer. Martha Graber (Chris Rimmer 2nd) nominated Jen Goulet as the chair, approved unanimously. Norm Miller nominated David Hubbard as treasurer (Chris Rimmer 2nd), approved unanimously.

David Hubbard gave a report on the Green Mountain Connect meeting in Bethel. The project aims to establish a link in the 200,000,000 acre corridor between the Tug Hill Plateau in New York and the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec.

Meeting adjourned 8:05pm