

Norwich Conservation Commission draft minutes of 20 September 2016

Present: Chris Rimmer, Craig Layne, Jennifer Goulet, Phyllis Katz, David Hubbard, Peter Silberfarb, David Hobson, Norm Miller

Public: Jonathan Frishtick, George Clark, Lee Steppacher

Commencement 7:00 pm

August minutes moved for approval (P. Silberfarb 1st, P. Katz 2nd), approved unanimously.

Jonathan Frishtick asked for help with tackling Japanese knotweed townwide. Are there detailed removal recommendations, ways for the town to help organize a control plan, funding resources? It cannot be cut or dug up and removed reliably. Chemical treatment means would be required. Cutting and stem painting has been reported to work. It is best to start from higher in watersheds with control efforts and work down the valley. Having a protocol to help landowners and a protocol to manage a watershed would be good. Having a test case, small patch, high in a watershed would also be good. Jonathan will contact the landowner at the upper end of the New Boston Brook watershed about using their patches as a test case. Lee will gather specific information about best management practices, mechanical and chemical. D. Hubbard will contact the CRWC for information about resources to do invasive plants control.

P. Silberfarb reported on the completion of the goutweed fact sheet and it will be publicly posted in October.

C. Layne reported on what was presented at the pool committee public presentation.

G. Clark reported on the Nature Area management plan, specifically how each of the stands is doing and what might be changed in the approach for each stand. More details about the stand-by-stand major species attributes and herbaceous layer information would be useful.

N. Miller reported on Norwich bird week. The library would be involved with art and books. Other possible activities include a speaker, a movie night, a photography exhibit, a film collage, student video presentations, a bird art auction, scouting in-the-classroom teaching, VCE public education, and workshops about links with habitat management.

J. Goulet reported about the Keeping Track talk in Norwich about cougars on Friday, 28 October, and the advertising to be done.

J. Goulet reported on the kick-off meeting about the potential removal of the Charles Brown Brook old reservoir dam, including talk of concrete waste, bank stabilization, fill removal, traffic, and invasive plants.

J. Goulet reported that there is an open seat on the commission.

P. Silberfarb moved (P. Katz 2nd) that the commission request \$1,000 in additional funds for the annual F'18 budget under the heading of Restoration and Management Projects, approved unanimously.

Adjournment 8:30 pm

Minutes submitted by C. Layne, secretary

Craig Layne, Secretary
Norwich Conservation Commission
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