

Minutes of the Norwich Conservation Commission (NCC) for April 18, 2017

Present: Jen Goulet, Mary Sellmann, Norm Miller, Peter Silberfarb, Chris Rimmer, David Hubbard

Absent: Craig Layne, David Hobson, Courtney Dragiff

Public: Lindsay Putnam, George Clark, Brie Swenson, Linda Cook

Commencement at 7:05 PM

March minutes were unanimously approved.

J. Goulet advised the Invasive Species Factsheet on Honeysuckle was released, to be followed by another on Phragmites.

Commission members and the public discussed reviewing and implementation of the updated Forest Management Plan for the Milt Frye Nature Area (MFNA) and the procedure for how to manage the MFNA, as the standing committee is being dissolved and the responsibilities will revert to the Commission. It was mentioned the Selectboard and the Upper Valley Land Trust will also have to review and accept the Forest Management Plan. P. Silberfarb raised his concern how the NCC will manage and guide the direction of the MFNA. L. Putnam reported management of invasive plants will need to be updated next year. B. Swenson stated many individuals connected to Marion Cross School (MCS) are interested in helping, as the MFNA is used regularly by MCS activities, including the Friday afternoon program. B. Swenson, who is also the MFNA Trail Steward, advised two Norwich Recreation programs are currently using the MFNA for trail running and mountain biking, and these programs are oriented toward younger children. Under all other circumstances, biking in the MFNA is not permitted. D. Hubbard suggested maintaining an educational component, such as navigation and trail use issues. P. Silberfarb expressed concern regarding insurance and liability for users of the MFNA by the recreation programs. Acceptance of the management plan will be postponed until the next meeting in May.

L. Cook as Fire Warden expressed concern with the protocol and procedures in place pertaining to the use of a campfire by the Friday afternoon Program, particularly with the usual dry spring conditions. L. Cooke strongly encouraged a more definitive protocol for a fire permit and follow through for each occasion, prior to lighting a campfire.

N. Miller reported on the topics and program for the "Celebration of Bird Week" to take place at various locations in town from May 5<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. A few small changes were suggested, and N. Miller stated advertising of the program will begin shortly and information updates can be found at [facebook.com/NorwichBirdWeek](https://facebook.com/NorwichBirdWeek).

G. Clark and B. Swenson reported on the recent Trail Committee meeting, and trail use issues at Gile Mtn., which will be discussed at a future Selectboard meeting.

Adjournment 8:20 PM

Minutes submitted by D. Hubbard