

Norwich Conservation Commission draft minutes of 16 May 2017

Present: Craig Layne, Chris Rimmer, Jennifer Goulet, David Hobson, Mary Sellmann, Courtney Dragiff, Norm Miller, David Hubbard

Absent: Peter Silberfarb

Commencement 7:00 pm

April minutes approved by unanimous consent.

J. Goulet announced an election of officers is needed. C. Rimmer moved (M. Sellman 2nd) that the people currently in the posts continue for another year. Those in the posts consented (J. Goulet - chair [with the contingency that a 2018 successor be actively groomed], P. Silberfarb [by proxy] - vice chair, D. Hubbard - treasurer, C. Layne - secretary). Approved unanimously.

J. Goulet asked for thoughts about the Nature Area general management plan and the forest management plan. Commissioners liked the thoroughness of the general plan. The forest plan could use some more detail and monitoring (an on-going prism plot) of field data as a foundation to adjust management. A soil map would also be helpful. The minimal plan has served the needs of the area, but it could be expanded for the future. D. Hobson would be willing to work on forest plan updates; he will organize some upcoming site visits to establish sample plots. There are funds budgeted for the area (~\$900 per year). Brie Swenson is the trails liaison for the area and will be the link between school activities in the area and commission management. C. Rimmer moved that the NCC accept the current general management plan (D. Hobson 2nd), approved unanimously.

N. Miller reported on Bird Week highlights. The walks, talks, movies, activities, and gatherings were successful. There were many contributors to the effort with their time and monetary donations. Special thanks go to Don McNabe, Chris Rimmer, Bonnie Fladung, Tom Porter, George Clark, Peter Silberfarb, and Norman Miller for their excellent work in organizing and leading events.

C. Dragiff and C. Rimmer reported on the Japanese knotweed project along New Boston Road. J. Frishtick will look for a concrete pad for plant drying. J. Goulet will help with trucking away plants.

A Phragmites initial cutting will be happening on the streamside above the Charles Brown Brook concrete dam on Friday, 2 June, 10 am. Volunteers are needed.

M. Sellmann reported on the Senior Center shrub row. There is very little space available. An evergreen screen will be attempted with mixed plant sizes and native species.

D. Hubbard went through expenditures of the FY2017 budget to date. Half of the \$6,950 budget has been spent. Approximately two-thirds of which has been spent on town trails. The LEEEP (environmental education, e.g. River Day) program could be added as its own line item so the program would know in advance what funds are available. Currently the funds come by year-to-year vote from the general Education line item.

Adjournment 8:15

Minutes Submitted by C. Layne