

Norwich Conservation Commission draft minutes of 20 June 2017

Present: Craig Layne, Jennifer Goulet, David Hobson, Courtney Dragiff, Norm Miller

Absent: Peter Silberfarb, Chris Rimmer, David Hubbard, Mary Sellmann

Public (Norwich Senior Housing): Paula Howes, Tracey Hayes

Commencement 7:00 pm

May minutes approved by unanimous consent.

C. Layne moved (D. Hobson 2<sup>nd</sup>) that the commission purchase two Xerces Society pollinator habitat signs (\$25 a piece) for the first two pollinator gardens installed in Norwich as part of the UV Pollinator Partners activities this year, approved unanimously.

C. Dragiff moved (N. Miller 2<sup>nd</sup>) that the commission approve \$500 in LEEP funding for FY17 and designate \$500 in LEEP funding for FY18, approved unanimously.

P. Howes and T. Hayes reported that the hedge at the senior center will be left intact during town facilities (police and fire) construction, then the hedge on both sides of the property boundary will come out to be replaced with native trees, shrubs, and herbs. The Norwich Senior Housing Board and the Conservation Commission will draft a Memorandum of Understanding to share with the Town Manager's Office about the future of the hedge as well as about the mature trees in the NW corner of the town facilities property.

J. Goulet reported that the select board asked about the commission working on a fence designing and funding project for the eastern edge of the town facilities property. C. Layne moved (D. Hobson 2<sup>nd</sup>) that the commission should decline the invitation because such a fence building project is not a part of the commission's mission, approved unanimously.

The Japanese knotweed experimental plots will get their first cutting and digging on Saturday, 24 June. All who are interested in participating should meet at 8 am at Huntley Meadows to carpool. Participants should bring drinking water, bug repellent, a hat, long pants, as well as digging and cutting implements.

J. Goulet reported that the Vermont Technical College is not currently milking cows at Brookmeade Farm and that some neighbors expressed concerns about a lack of agricultural use, which was part of the conservation arrangement. VTC reports that they are still using the property for added value dairy and that they are deciding how to use the property next year. The Upper Valley Land Trust reports that if VTC ever decided not to use the site for agriculture, the UVLT is first in line to purchase the lower fields and buildings in order to transfer their use to someone else who would use them for agricultural purposes.

N. Miller suggested that the commission could support conservation through education by hosting two presentation series a year, wildlife in the Fall and Bird week in the Spring. It was suggested that if Bird week happens again, the school teachers should be asked this August about having their classes involved. It was suggested that a speaker discussing "living with bears" would be a good, topical event for the Fall.

N. Miller moved (C. Layne 2<sup>nd</sup>) that the commission pay the \$300 bill for the bird week live raptor demonstration by VINS and pay a \$165 reimbursement to Doug Hardy for bird week printing costs. Receipts for both expenditures will be given by N. Miller to D. Hubbard.

J. Goulet reported that she will be resigning from the commission. Thank you for your exemplary hard work, Jen.

Adjournment 8:15

Minutes Submitted by C. Layne