

NORWICH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING DRAFT MINUTES: 17 October 2023

Members Present: Craig Layne (Chair), Lynnwood Andrews, Cheryl Asa, Alex Gottlieb, Lindsay Putnam, Chris Rimmer, Andrew Torkelson, Cody Williams

Guests: None

Meeting convened at 7:02 PM

Public Comments: There were no guests present

Milton Frye Nature Area: Seeds have been received to plant in cleared area after first hard frost. Lynnwood has been weed-whacking around the vernal pool to make it obvious which plants should be saved when mowing. The fence has been moved further down to protect more of the plantings.

Tree Quest: Lindsey and Lynnwood led a class for TreeQuest.

Schmidt Bog: The rainy summer interfered with progress on the work projects, so the plan is to resume them next year. A deer exclusion plot location has been selected.

Deer Exclusion Plots: Alex suggests creating a GIS map to identify locations of these plots and various other NCC projects around town. It could be printed to use for displays and could also live on the NCC website. Alex supervised installation of another plot in the Brookmead Conservation Area.

Phragmites: Chris reported that there are phragmites stalks growing in the site in the Ompompanoosuc River that had previously been treated to eliminate them. Chris will contact Redstart about re-treating.

Bat Boxes: Two new bat boxes were installed in Barrett Park and Huntley Meadow.

Trails Committee: Cody gave an update on Trails Committee activities. There will be Ballard Trail workdays the weekend of October 21-22 to relocate the trail around the area washed-out during recent flooding. A trail counter was replaced on Parcel 5 to get better data on use. Chris offered to be an alternate member of the Committee when Cody or Craig can't attend.

Budget: Craig submitted the proposed NCC budget for fiscal year 2025, which is unchanged from the 2024 budget except for an additional \$2000 under Trails for replacement of two trail bridges.

Updates from Public Forums, Meetings, and Minutes

Cheryl mentioned that the August meeting minutes of Affordable Housing Subcommittee stated they would be inviting a member of the NCC to the September meeting. Craig has offered to follow up. Craig attended the Solar Siting Committee meeting and outlined reasons for Ridgeline protections.

Approval of September Minutes: Cheryl moved, Alex seconded, and the motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 7:50 PM

Minutes compiled by Cheryl Asa