

Norwich conservation committee meeting August 18, 2026 7 PM to 8:15 PM

The meeting was conducted by Zoom and was recorded

Members present: Lynnwood Andrews, Alex Gottlieb, Craig Layne, Peg Merrens, Chris Rimmer, Andrew Torkelson.

Agenda: 2 items added. Beaver baffles at Tigertown Pond and the draft of the Energy chapter of the Town plan.

1. Public comments, none.
2. Outreach: no activity at this time
3. Enhanced energy plan: this was discussed members were encouraged to send any other ideas to Stephen True.
4. Blood Brook riparian project: there was a project update, some wood chips have been spread and condo association is planning extensive planting along the edge of Blood Brook.
5. Milt Grey nature area: sub, community discussion, no major developments, working on pruning of the apple trees and mitigation of Buckthorn, ultimate goal is to plant native plants to improve bird habitat.
6. A project at Huntley Meadow was discussed. That houses have been put up and there is a plan for a community blueberry patch in the area where Buckthorne has been most invasive soil testing is being planned with the ultimate goal to have a community blueberry patch.
7. Trail subcommittee did not have any major issues. Appreciation was expressed to the trail workers who repaired the stairs on the Ballard with an excellent safety handrail, which was installed.
8. Emerald Ash borer subcommittee: appreciation was expressed to the committee with excellent work done by the Wilcox tree company future plans for cutting down more of the diseased ash trees is being planned
9. They are hunting regulations: new rules are being created by the state we discussed the complexity of hunting bears, and there was general consensus that bears should not be hunted when they are in their den.
10. Peg Merrens ask to discuss website domain expenditures. It was agreed that the north conservation.org Web domain should be funded. The cost was \$36.38 which everyone on the Commission agreed with.
11. There was a good discussion about invasive species mitigation. These included buckthorn, phragmites, and Japanese knot weed. There was general consensus that successful mitigation is difficult without using herbicides. We also discussed waste to implement a community wide effort to deal with these invasives in specified neighborhoods within the town of Norwich. It was agreed to explore this further and

perhaps even work with a select board to develop a townwide plan to mitigate invasives, understanding the challenges associated with this.

12. New members were also discussed and several people brought up Bob Holly's name. We will reach out to him to see if he is interested and if so, we'll recruit him as a new member.

13. Minutes of May 2026 meeting were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.