

Norwich Conservation Commission DRAFT minutes

Sep 15, 2026 |

Attendees: Lynnwood Andrews, Peg Merrens, Andy Torkelson, Craig Layne, Lindsay Putnam, Cody Williams

Additional Items Added to Agenda - Lynnwood adds 2 items to agenda: knot weed demonstration from Grafton Co Conservation; whether to comment on Roadless Rule proposed change.

Public Comments - None.

Outreach - No new outreach. Lindsay will look for information about bears for PO display.

Lindsay will reach out to Cam Cross, and Trails Committee (George Clark, Nick Krembs) about history of some trails in town, to post to PO and/or at trail head kiosks.

Blood Brook Riparian Project at Condos

Nothing has been communicated to NCC recently.

Milt Frye

1. Need to clarify to the DPW where the property line is for purposes of mowing. Lily Trajman would like it mowed to the edge, as would we, on a schedule that's good for habitat.
2. Chrissy Morley would like to participate with a Citizen Science Project on identifying DNA of mushrooms to make a "mycomap" to identify and DNA sequence every mushroom species in VT. Commission gives their approval. Upper Valley Land Trust approves as well.
3. Summer data on deer exclusion: MFNA and Montshire show great benefits of the exclusion fence. (The further sites do not yet show progress.)
4. Craig has been repairing bird boxes, a few at a time. We should bring them in for the winter.
5. Craig would like to see the pile of logs at the MFNA trailhead distributed around the forest floor (as he had originally requested).
6. Craig reports that the native wildflower planting Lynnwood did with 1st grade last year is doing extremely well.

7. Pile of ash woodchips is being used to cover the landscape fabric which Lynnwood is using to smother buckthorn. Andy offers his tractor to help move the chips. (Chips came from the EBA project.)

Bat Houses / Blueberry Patches

1. Additional bat houses have been added. Now there are 4. They create a boundary in which we want to plant blueberries to replace the buckthorn that is there. Brie (Rec Dept) and Lynnwood suggest creating a committee of interested townspeople who can work on this project of getting rid of the buckthorn and doing the planting. Lynnwood will ask Brie if she can contact DPW to help.
2. Andy suggests using a hand held sonar device to detect bat activity. Craig has such a tool.
3. Lynnwood asks how to attract the bats. Apparently guano is no longer recommended.
4. Craig reports that the last 2 bat houses will go at Melendy Parcel and at Woody Adams in the open area near the Turnpike access.

Trails Subcommittee Report

1. Upper Valley Trails built new bridge at MFNA from St. Barnabas. Trails helped by prepping the site.
2. Work day happened on August 16 to clear water bars from Bradley Hill trail.
3. Bob and Jim added new layer of protective material to Gile Tower treads.
4. Bob recommends a french drain at Gile parking lot to address the water runoff problem. It appears to be coming from underneath, not as direct runoff. Bob proposed to SB that the town undertake this to improve the quality of the parking area, especially given its small size.

Emerald Ashborer Subcommittee

1. More roadside surveying needs to be done. The subcommittee will work on this over the next couple of months. It will entail about the same amount and kind of work as last time.

Topics for future Norwich Times articles

1. Lynnwood asks for ideas for future articles:
 - Need more deer hunting, deer exclosures successes, women in hunting.

- Light pollution and noise pollution.
- Community control of invasive species

Knotweed Project

Grafton Co Conservation District, in Campton NH, is doing a tour the 24th of September, 5-6 PM, on knotweed control: Herbicide vs hardware cloth effectiveness. Lynnwood suggests a demonstration project at the Transfer Station where there are 2 knotweed patches. Andy mentions article in Northern Woodlands that would support our efforts/understanding.

Roadless Rule Comment Question:

Is it within the NCC purview to comment on the federal roadless rule change proposal? We discussed this at some length and determined that it is okay for the NCC to submit a comment, but to make sure we are not speaking for the Town. We discussed what we would like to say and Lynnwood will submit a short paragraph.

Approval of August Minutes

Spelling and typos corrected.

Lynnwood moved to approve as amended. Craig seconded. Minutes approved.