

## NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### MEETING OCT. 19, 2022 MINUTES

Present: Bill Llewelyn, Mike Barry, Charlie Blanker, Robin Conley, Sarah Kerns, Tori Luksha  
Guests: Patricia Kinsella, Cooper Bullock

Bill opened the meeting at 7:10 pm.

We circulated a copy of the Pioneer Land Stewardship Plan and discussed John Lapore's background and agreed that we are enthusiastic about renewed interest in the Plan. Cooper Bullock, a senior at PVRs, started a Stewardship Club at PVRs that now has 22 members. He described the **upcoming trail improvement workshop** of putting woodchipped mulch on a section of the cross-country trail to protect exposed roots, prevent further erosion, and improve runner and walker safety. A Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) was submitted because this section of the trail is within 100' of a certified vernal pool. The land between the trail and vernal pool is heavily vegetated. Northfield, Bernardston and Warwick's DPWs donated the wood chips. We discussed invasive species problems, and Bill inquired about the wellhead. Motion made (Tori/Robin) and carried to approve the trail improvement plan and to issue a negative determination of the RDA since the plan will not adversely affect the vernal pool; filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) is not necessary.

Tori reported on her **review of Planning Board's draft of the updated floodplain overlay**. She did not see problems with the maps but is concerned about the Town Administrator being named as Floodplain Administrator. Tori suggested someone with qualifications in environmental studies should be the floodplain administrator. Charlie expressed concerns regarding the lack of guidelines of ConsCom reviewing the floodplain overlay and the need for more clarity of a local bylaw. Mike commented that these issues are another reason Northfield ConsCom could benefit from a shared municipal conservation agent.

We discussed a letter of complaint regarding **erosion at King Philip's Hill**. Charlie responded to the complaint, stating archeological concerns are not within ConsCom jurisdiction. Mike and Charlie walked the trails on King Philip's Hill and did not see any erosion from an abutting property. Mike will respond to the letter.

Tori reviewed Emails that were received during the transition to the **town based ConsCom Email**. One anonymous Email indicated a brook has been dammed. We will find out if this can be viewed from the road. Bill will respond to new homeowners' questions about living next to a marsh. There is a request for a Certificate of Compliance, but Bill said prior filings have not been completed. Charlie will make a site visit to ascertain Order of Conditions have been met. There was another forestry cutting plan, and Mike informed us of the process of filing forestry plans.

Another letter of complaint addressed a **man-made pond next to 4-Mile Brook**. ConsCom will inquire about DEP regulations and may schedule a site visit.

Sept minutes were approved with one minor change. Meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Minutes approved 11/30/22 as written.