

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MARCH 15, 2023 MINUTES

Present: Bill Llewelyn (phone), Charlie Blanker, Robin Conley, Tori Luksha, Sarah Kerns

Absent: Mike Barry

Guests: Skip Dunnell, Meredith Borenstein, David Cameron, Bernie Porada, Matthew Sturz, John Lapore, Patricia Kinsella, Andrew Vernon

Bill opened the meeting at 7:10 pm.

A continued hearing was held on the Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) for the proposed town Safety Complex. Meredith Borenstein, Wetlands Scientist with SWCA Environmental Consultants, walked the site with David Cameron on March 1. Some wetland flaggings were changed as well as the median high water line marking associated with the river. She stated the study area was tightened up from 39 acres to approximately 15 acres, eliminating the area near Dickinson Street, focusing on the proposed safety complex site. We all reviewed the maps. David Cameron, Wetlands Scientist with Fleetwood Environmental Solutions, helped confer and clarify the maps. Ms. Borenstein addressed how the recommendations listed by Mr. Cameron in his peer review report were resolved. SWCA also addressed a few DEP concerns. Mr. Cameron reviewed SWCA's amended findings and was in agreement. Bill turned the meeting over to Charlie, the acting chair, at 7:38. There was much discussion about WPA rules and regulations. Motion made (Tori/Robin) and carried to accept the current delineation of the wetland boundaries of the updated March 14, 2023 ANRAD report. We discussed the next steps; Skip informed us of the bidding process. Mr. Cameron offered to help us with the official documentation of the ANRAD and ORAD filings, which we gratefully accepted since this is a complicated process.

John Lepore, Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner, presented plans of restoring wooded property into a **native species park behind Northfield Elementary School**. It will be an outdoor education area, and he shared educators are supportive of the plan. PVRSD is in discussion with Town of Northfield, owners of the wooded site, regarding lease. The area is on the Connecticut River terrace. Maps of soils, elevation and profile were reviewed. The preliminary assessment of the site has begun. Two paths will be created to further assess the site. Mr. Lepore is conferring with several people regarding the history of the site. Ms. Kinsella shared PVRSD is very supportive of Mr. Lepore's management of this multiyear project. ConsCom was enthused with this proposed ecologically restored park.

Andrew Vernon gave a **Stewardship Committee (SC) report**. Minutes of the January and February meetings were emailed to ConsCom. The town forest plan needs to be renewed. He inquired about how the town-owned land behind the library will be managed. SC set several workdays. Sarah and Tori shared they hope to get an IT tablet to assist SC with mapping, monitoring and reporting. Sarah will send Andrew a text of recommendations to update the SC website. Robin shared that Joanne McGee wanted ConsCom and SC to know that signage at the historical Calvin Swan home will be installed soon. Everyone approved.

We agreed to table the **FRCOG Shared Regional ConsCom Administrator** position. We have good resources in place and have some skilled admin and clerical commissioners. There is nothing to present at Town Meeting regarding the potential shared position.

February minutes were accepted as written. We reviewed the mail. Robin presented a draft of the annual report. Sarah reported a complaint about land filling with construction debris and a mattress.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.