

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of December 10, 2008

- I. ROLL CALL: Patricia Coppolino, Russ Barrett, Matt Krebs, Leslie Matthews, Larry Garland (absent), Don Wallace (absent), and Pam Knox (absent).

Chair called meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Minutes from October 8, 2008 meeting were approved.

III. DISCUSSION

- a. Update on Watershed Grants Chair Coppolino and Commissioner Matthews completed and submitted two watershed grants – one grant seeks funding to construct and make available a portable skidder bridge for logging projects in the Northfield area; the other grant seeks funding to conduct a natural communities mapping project in the Northfield Municipal Forest and adjacent Norwich University properties. Notification of grant awards will be sometime in February.
- b. Town Report Commissioner Matthews agreed to take responsibility for drafting a blurb for this year's annual town report (due January 16, 2009). She will circulate a draft to other commissioners for input. Topics covered will include the Dog River Geomorphic Assessment project, the Municipal Forest mapping project, grant applications, and forest plans for Use Value compliance for the Municipal Forest and Dustin's Pasture.
- c. Dog River Geomorphic Assessment Grant. Chair Coppolino reported that the field work for the project has completed and analysis is in process. She indicated that it would be desirable to have the analysis available in time for Northfield's pending public hearings on land use planning.
- d. Meeting with Planning Commission Chair Coppolino urged that as many Conservation Commissioners as possible attend the upcoming Planning Commission meeting (December 15, 2008) to discuss the Conservation Commissions ongoing development of natural resources planning recommendations. There will be a pancake breakfast and information/discussion session about land use on January 10, 2008, for which the Conservation Commission should make a presentation.
- e. Trails Grant Commissioner Barrett indicated that the trails grant he is working on is due January 14. The Conservation Commission will apply for funds to stabilize existing trails in the Municipal Forest, with work conducted by volunteers and a YCC work crew. Other elements of the proposal include volunteer work to clear the Hawk Watch area and possibly restore the lean-to, and perhaps work to open up a corridor to Paine Mountain from the north side of Turkey Hill to Dustin's Pasture.
- f. Municipal Forest Plan Recommendations Work on the municipal forest plan recommendations will be divided up as follows: Wildlife management – Commissioners Matthews and Garland; Access – Commissioner Krebs; Mountain Biking – Chair Coppolino; Hiking – Chair Coppolino will contact Patrick Kell at VYCC; Timber management – Commissioner Barrett; Forest and Habitat Management Commissioners Matthews and Garland.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- V. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Commissioner Matthews, seconded by Commissioner Krebs to adjourn. Motion passed 4-0-0.

The Board adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie J. Matthews, For Matthew S. Krebs, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.