

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of July 9, 2008**

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

Chair called meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Matthews, to approve minutes. **Motion passed 6-0-0.**

III. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- a. **Northfield Mountain Bike Association.** Dave Packie and Patrick Kell came and presented information that a local mountain bike association had been formed. Dave explained they are doing trail work on private lands on Saturday afternoons. He also wanted to make the commission aware that there would be a local chapter of VMBA to deal with when the municipal forest plan involves mountain biking. Patrick works half time for VMBA and half time for VYCC. He came to discuss how VMBA supports local chapters with grant writing assistance and other information to promote mountain biking.

IV. **DISCUSSION**

- a. **Update on Select board and Trustee Meetings.** Chair Coppolino gave commission an update of her visits to the Select board and the Trustees. She said the Trustees want to pursue all uses of the municipal forest as long as each can be managed. They also want a public participation period when a draft plan is complete.
- b. **Update Dog River Geomorphic Assessment Grant.** Commissioner Garland discussed the status of the study. He said the contractor won't be back to working on the main stem until the 2nd or 3rd week of August. Ryan McCall, the Winooski Basin Planner, is doing a study of the Winooski watershed up to the head waters of the tributaries of the Dog River. Commissioner Garland was going to see if this would connect and enhance our study.
- c. **Forest Legacy Program.** Commissioner Barrett explained this is a program in the 1990 Federal Farm Bill to help purchase value tracts of land for public conservation. It was discussed that if anyone knows of a property that would be valuable for Northfield to conserve we could pursue this avenue.
- d. **Plan for Municipal Forest Management.** Discussed setting dates for additional GPS hikes for the preliminary mapping of the forest. Commissioner Barrett will send an email with some possible dates.

- e. **Discuss meeting with VTANR Ryan McCall.** Ryan wants to present a PowerPoint about his plan for studying the Dog River. Chair Coppolino will have Ryan send more information to use so we are able to provide better feedback.
 - f. **Web Page.** Commissioner Matthews asked for feedback on how the site could be improved. Will discuss in more detail at future meeting.
- VI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to adjourn. **Motion passed 6-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew S. Krebs

Matthew S. Krebs, Clerk

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