



Norfolk Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
Town of Norfolk, P.O. Box 552, Norfolk, Connecticut 06058

**Date:** Monday, January 12, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** In-person meeting with remote participation option

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### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

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### **Attendance**

#### **Present (in person):**

- Susannah Wood, Chair
- Becky Eaton
- Bill Ticineto
- Libby Borden

#### **Present (via Zoom):**

- John Anderson

#### **Absent:**

- Nash Pradhan
- Shelley Harms

A quorum was present.

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**Review and approve minutes:** The minutes were approved as presented

**Correspondence:** Susannah mentioned for the record her email exchanges with First Selectman Henry Tirrell and Troy Lamere regarding large amounts of salt and sand deposited on Westside Rd. She has an appointment with Troy on Wednesday to discuss how this can be better handled in future.

She also reported the commission had been copied on an email to Town Hall from Martha Klein seeking some kind of restitution from the town for what she has claimed was illegal cutting of trees on her property. The commission will seek to stay informed about this issue.

**Public Comment:** none

**Budget:** No change from last month. Becky is submitting the bill from Native Habitat Restoration for Japanese knotweed treatment

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## **1. Invasive Plant Management and Native Planting Initiatives**

The Commission discussed ongoing efforts to control invasive plant species and to promote native planting throughout town with a focus on supporting pollinators. Topics included:

- continued monitoring and treatment needs for Japanese knotweed and other invasives
- long-term control with and without the use of chemicals
- choosing a stretch of well-traveled town road for a demonstration of invasive removal and replanting with natives

The upcoming Norfolk Nature Alliance 2026 focus will merge invasive-removal content with native-plant-focused programming and highlight native bee habitat and needs.

### **Action Item:**

- Chair and Becky Eaton will confer prior to the next meeting to pin down the right schedule for when to replant areas of invasive removal with natives with particular focus on Botelle School project.
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## **Coordination with Road Crew and Town Departments**

Members discussed strengthening coordination with the road crew and the Selectman's office regarding:

- roadside vegetation management
- timing of seasonal mowing
- communication related to projects impacting natural resources

The Commission expressed interest in developing clear expectations and best management practices.

### **Action Items:**

- Becky and Susannah will pursue discussions with the road crew and Selectman's office regarding best practices, expectations, and communication protocols.
  - Commission will develop concise guidance on mowing timing and related management practices keeping in mind not to try to do too much at once/
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### **Outreach regarding invasives, especially Japanese stilt grass:**

Given that Japanese stilt grass is still relatively new in Norfolk and is so aggressive, the Commission agreed it should be a focus of outreach to landowners adjacent to road sides where it has developed. The commission will recommend that the town will use a pre emergent chemical treatment pending advice from Jess Toro at Native Habitat Restoration. Becky knows some of the landowners ,but not all and needs help identifying others.

#### **Action Items:**

- Susannah to help Becky research names and contact information for unknown landowners with infestations.
- Susannah to contact Vicky McClean and her sister re: stilt grass on their property
- Libby to discuss pre-emergent treatment with Stewardship Committee of the Norfolk Land Trust

## **2. Programs, Speakers, and Events**

The Commission discussed a range of potential programming topics and events, including:

- coordination with the Norfolk Nature Alliance programming
- a **Native Plant of the Month** campaign anticipated to begin in the spring
- a June moth-focused program with **Ray Simpson**
- hosting **Friday Night on the Green in August** (specific date to be confirmed)
- a potential presentation by **Hank Gruner** focusing on wet meadows and ways a conservation commission can be more pro active with property owners.

#### **Action Items:**

- The Chair will confirm the August date for hosting Friday Night on the Green.
  - The Commission will continue planning the June moth event with Ray Simpson.
  - John Anderson will contact Hank Gruner regarding a wet-meadows presentation and will determine available dates for both the presenter and the Hub venue.
  
  - Becky will investigate possible speakers related to invasive plant management
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## **6. Membership and Commission Structure**

The Commission discussed the recruitment of new members. Shelley Harms will be off the Commission as of February. Susannah asked those present to think of possible new members and said she had had a discussion with Avice Meehan to see if she might be interested. She will think about it. Other names include someone Nash knows who is very conservation minded.

**Action Items:**

- Becky to reach out to Nash for how to contact his suggestion
  - Libby to speak with new head of EDC, Brett Robbins, about possible candidates
  - Susannah to speak with Bevan Ramsay and Eliza Little for any ideas they might have
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**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:07 p.m.

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**Summary of Action Items**

- Chair and Becky Eaton to confer prior to the next meeting regarding contacts and research on invasive control and native planting.
- Commission to pursue discussions with the road crew and Selectman's office regarding best management practices and communication.
- Commissioners to develop concise guidance related to mowing timing and vegetation management.
- Chair to confirm August date for Friday Night on the Green.
- Planning to continue for June moth program with Ray Simpson.
- Budget planning to consider ongoing invasive treatment needs.
- Becky Eaton to continue initiation of speaker outreach for upcoming programming.
- John Anderson to contact Hank Gruner about a wet-meadows presentation and coordinate possible dates with the Hub venue.
- Everyone to think about possible new members of the Commission
- Susannah and Becky to collaborate on reaching out about stilt grass



Rebecca Eaton