



Norfolk Conservation Commission

Special Meeting Minutes | May 13, 2026 | 6:00 PM

- Attendance
- Chair: Susannah
- Members Present: Bill Tacineto, Becky Eaton, Libby Borden
-
- 1. Approval of Previous Minutes
- Minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.
- 2. Correspondence & Communications
- **WIN Weekend (May 29)**
- The Commission discussed table at the Hub. Topics included tent/canopy logistics and event materials (invasive species info, native plants, Soft Landings displays).
- Decision: Approved funding for a large property map (~30"×60") for display. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Colebrook Conservation Commission**
- Email received from Jeanne Jones expressing interest in sharing ideas, including Colebrook's composting program.
- Decision: Commission agreed to arrange a meeting with Colebrook.
- **Mineral Sunscreen Flyer**
- Discussed a flyer from Linda Garretson re:Toby and promoting mineral sunscreens to protect local lakes.
- Decision: Commission agreed to provide a general statement of support (no formal endorsement required).
- **Otter.ai Subscription**
- Decision: Approved sharing an Otter.ai subscription with the Wetlands. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Budget & Expenses
- Budget report to be distributed; check request deadline is June 15, 2026. Speaker honorarium for a compost tea presentation was discussed and resolved (amount reduced by \$100 after mileage recalculation).
- Action: Chair to formally vote on speaker fees at future meetings.
- Action: Monique to re-record compost tea presentation video for community distribution.

- 4. Invasive Species & Native Plantings
- **Knotweed Treatment:**
- Work session planned for June. Method: cut knotweed, apply wood chips, then black landscape fabric. Troy to supply and spread wood chips.
- **Native Plant Donation:**
- Native shrubs and perennials to be collected from Lime Rock on June 6 (tentative). Plants staged at Nash's greenhouse pending site prep.
- Action: Recruit volunteers; offer donated plant as thank-you.
- **Downtown Invasives:**
- Areas behind the bank and post office identified as bittersweet overgrowth sites; potential for joint beautification projects discussed.
- **Billings Pollinator Garden (Botelle):**
- Garden is now shaded and needs restoration. A small portion of AKC grant funds (\$4,000) proposed for shade-tolerant plantings.
- Action: Bring specific budget amount for Botelle restoration to next meeting for formal approval.
- Action: Chair to consult Town Hall about directing AKC check to a designated Commission account or some other approach that is appropriate.
- 5. Programs & Public Education
- Discussed inviting Marjorie Winters to present on pollinator gardens (caterpillars, butterflies, bird-supporting plants) during Pollinator Week (June 21) or July.
- Action: Contact Marjorie Winters about availability.
- Discussed finding a speaker on landscape-level invasives to address community paralysis on the topic. Amy Patterson suggested as lead.
- Revisited "buddy system" concept for pairing community members to tackle invasives together.
- Discussed potential Xerces Society partnership for pollinator habitat restoration at Botelle, and a possible curriculum connection with Norfolk School (5th grade ecosystem unit).
- 6. Friday Night on the Green — Moth Night
- Moth Night scheduled for June 26, 2026 (rain date June 27), starting at 8:00 PM.
- Decision: Approved up to \$50 for mosquito dunks to distribute as giveaways. Motion passed unanimously.
- Literature on tick, grub and mosquito management alternatives will also be available.
- 7. Commission Membership
- Discussed recruiting new members. Chair to follow up.

- o Noel Jenkins is still thinking about being a commissioner.
- o Action: Explore hosting a social event at the Hub to connect new residents with local environmental groups.
- o 8. Road Salt Testing
- o Test run with Bill planned for the following Wednesday.
- o 9. Other Business
- o Rails to Trails: progress noted; no Commission action required.

o

o *Meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM*

o

o _____

Date: _____

o Recording Secretary

o

o _____

Date: _____

o Chair, Conservation Commission