

**Town of Bennington
Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting – August 16, 2012**

Conservation Commission Members Present: John Baybutt, Jon Manley, Joe MacGregor, and Valerie Germain

Agenda

- 1. Approve June Minutes**
- 2. CC Response to Master Plan**
- 3. Review and re-assess goals for 2012**
- 4. Reschedule River Clean-up**
- 5. Bruce Edes Annual Walk**
- 6. Other**

- 1. Approve Minutes** – Minutes for the June 21, 2012 meeting were approved. The Commission did not meet in July.
- 2. Master Plan** – Jeff Rose, chairman of the Planning Board, contacted the Conservation Commission requesting input from the Commission to add to the Town's Master Plan which is being revised. CC members looked over original goals and objectives and came up with the following.

Conservation Commission Goals and Objectives (for Master Plan)

The Bennington Conservation Commission was established at Town Meeting in March of 1989. The purpose of the Commission was to conserve, protect, and manage Bennington's natural resources. Specific goals included:

- Protecting water resources
- Establishing Town Forests to promote educational and recreational opportunities and protect wildlife habitats
- Preserve and protect environmentally sensitive open lands
- Encourage and facilitate land gifts to the Town for conservation
- Protect and preserve the Town's historic, aesthetic, rural and scenic resources
- Promote public awareness about the Town's natural and historic resources
- Provide guidelines for responsible development
- Provide guidelines for responsible timber harvests and gravel excavations, and reclamation of mined mineral sites

The future goals of the Conservation Commission are to protect and conserve the soil, land, water, and historic resources of the town and to acquire lands to advance that goal. The Conservation Commission will promote sound conservation practices and encourage responsible stewardship. The Commission will acquire lands that are sensitive to the protection of town resources.

The Commission will work to provide guidelines for responsible development that minimizes impact on environmentally sensitive areas, including attention to visual impact, density, buffer zones, green space, and road layouts.

Action Item: Val to complete draft copy and email it to members for editing/revising. The final draft will be sent to the Dee French to print for the Planning board.

Added note: In 2009, the Town voted to authorize 50% of the Land use Change tax to be deposited into the Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5, III to help meet our goal of purchasing land for conservation

3. Review and re-assess goals for 2012

a) **Perambulation** of Greenfield/Francestown/Bennington Town Lines: A date was set for October 20th Meet at Bennington VFW 9:00 a.m.

Action Items: Get a map of the town for the September meeting from the Town Hall and also see if the original charter book of boundaries is there (Joe M.)

Contact Town Administrators of Francestown and Greenfield (Val)

Contact Dennis to see if there is a GPS map to overlay with the town map (Val)

4. Reschedule River Clean-up - Rescheduled for Saturday, August 25th

Action Item: Contact Volunteers via e-mail (Val/Joe/John)

5. Bruce Edes Annual Walk - Saturday, September 8th at 9:00 a.m.

Action Item: Contact newspaper, post notices (Val), contact Josh Edes (Joe)

6. Other -

~A Wetlands Permit Application was sent to the Conservation Commission for culvert work on Bible Hill Road. The application was signed and dropped off at Town Hall

~ Friends of the Forest: The Conservation Commission acknowledged friends of the Bruce Edes forest and their role in utilizing, maintaining, and improving trails and bridges.

Meeting was adjourned 7:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 20, 2012

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Germain
Secretary
Conservation Commission

