

**Town of Bennington
Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting- May 23, 2013**

Members Present: Valerie Germain –Chair, John Baybutt, Joe MacGregor, Jon Manley, and Rose Melanson

Agenda

- 1. Old Business**
- 2. Earth Day**
- 3. Goals**
- 4. Other**

Chairwoman Germain called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

1. Old Business

- a. Joe MacGregor contacted Denise French regarding sending out letters to retired members: Denise McKenney, Letitia Rice, and Josh Stewart. Chairwoman Germain will send a follow up email to Denise French.
- b. There are three sets of Conservation Commission Guidebooks and manuals. Members will pass them along to the other members as they finish reviewing them.

2. Earth Day

- a. Clean up was very successful this year. On April 20, 2013 approximately 160 bags of litter were collected from the roadside cleanup. There were approximately 70 people who participated.
- b. A thank you letter from the Conservation Commission was published in the Transcript-Ledger thanking those who participated in the roadside cleanup.
- c. Chairwoman Germain noted that a bin was purchased to store items such as paper towels, cups, blue garbage bags, etc. It will be located at the Town Hall.
- d. Possible changes for next years cleanup include:
 - i. Advertising earlier by hanging a banner at the VFW. John Baybutt will collect quotes for cost of a banner. Paula Brissette of Trends of Fashion and Ken Reed are possible contacts that could help the Commissioners in their search of a banner.
 - ii. Several members would like to see a proactive conservation related project in conjunction to the earth day clean up, i.e. planting trees.
 - iii. Although not all volunteers came to the breakfast prior to the roadside cleanup, the Commissioners would like to serve breakfast again next year to encourage participation. They noted a smaller amount of leftovers compared to when they offer lunch.

3. Goals

- a. Antrim-Bennington Line needs to be perambulated with GPS coordinates in order to mark the monuments per perambulation protocol. Tentative date will be Saturday July 13, 2013.
 - b. Hancock-Bennington Line needs to be perambulated. It was suggested to contact Ben Haubrich for help collecting information this summer as to where markers are and to gather maps.
 - c. Continue working on stand project along the trails possibly to include informative posters for what you may see along the trails each month.
 - d. Work on the brochure. Chairwoman Germain will follow up with Denise French regarding a disclaimer regarding handicap access. Joe MacGregor shared a map of the trails created by Leslie MacGregor for the Summer Library Program that the Commissioners could work with for the use of their brochure.
 - e. River Cleanup will tentatively be done August 17, 2013.
 - f. Bruce Edes annual walk will tentatively be held on September 7, 2013.
 - g. Color-coded maps of land in town to designate land use and owners. Joe MacGregor will contact Kristie LaPlante to see if there are maps available to start this project this winter.
 - h. Locating information regarding who is responsible for trestle conditions.
- 4. Other**
- a. Joe MacGregor will be working with Dick Loveland from the Antrim-Bennington Lions Club on updating the Outdoor Guide to include distances of each trail.
 - b. Lakes Conference is June 21, 2013.
 - c. Joe MacGregor presented information from Barry White who completed a detailed study of the VFW with recommendations for the building. He also included information for grants available to restore town buildings specific to railroads. The Commissioners will forward this to the Selectmen.

Action Item: Chairwoman Germain will contact Denise French regarding money from the timber tax being reallocated from the general fund to the conservation fund.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett
Conservation Commissioner Recording Secretary