

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting- February 20, 2014

Present: Valerie Germain-Chairwoman, Jon Manley, Joe MacGregor

Guest: Stephen Willette

Chairwoman Germain called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Stephen Willette introduced himself to the Commissioners. He is interested in becoming a Conservation Commissioner. The Commissioners will submit Stephen's name to the Selectmen to be appointed as a member.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes from the November 21, 2013 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

2. Old Business

a. Greenfield-Bennington line Perambulation-

- i. Jon Manley and Joe MacGregor reported back to the Commissioners and showed pictures of the perambulation. The perambulation was completed by Jon Manley, Joe MacGregor, John Baybutt, John Cronin III, and Carol (member of Greenfield Conservation Commission). John Baybutt will complete the report of the perambulation.
- ii. Chairwoman Germain will contact Kristie LaPlante to see if the Commissioners will be able to add pictures of the Greenfield-Bennington line Perambulation to the Town Report.
- b. **LCHIP Grant-** Chairwoman Germain reported that the Commissioners were notified the grant was not approved.
- c. **Sean Campbell's Eagle Project-** Several members attended Sean Campbell's ceremony inducting him as an Eagle Scout. Jon Manley will attend the March 5th scout meeting to present Sean with a proclamation from the Governor. Manley invited the other Commissioner's to attend the scout meeting with him.

3. Other

a. Invasive Species Presentation-

- i. Last month the Commissioners attended a presentation on invasive species. Joe MacGregor shared with the Commissioners copies of NH prohibited Invasive Upland Plants poster and guide.
- ii. The Commissioners generated ideas for educating the public.
 - 1. The Commissioners will make a formal request for more guides they can receive in order to educate the public. If guides can be obtained; the Commissioners would like to notify town members in the spring newsletter that the guides are available.

2. Joe MacGregor will contact Suzy Spikol from the Harris Center for creating a presentation for school age children.
 3. The Commissioners will actively monitor town lands for invasive species.
 4. The Commissioners will draft a letter to the Sportsman Club offering guides and a poster for invasive species.
- b. Correspondence
- i. **Resignation**- With regret the Commissioners accepted Rose Melanson's written resignation.
 - ii. **Normandeau Group Survey**- The Commissioners received a survey from the Normandeau Group regarding potential impacts on the environment due to Phase II of the Downtown project. At the hearing for the project, Joe MacGregor raised his concern for the water collection basin at the bottom of Eaton Avenue and Antrim Road. He raised the idea of a filtration system such as a water garden gravel perk to clean the water going into the river. Chairwoman Germain will email the Commissioners for further input for the survey.
 - iii. **Barry Conservation 4H camp**- The Commissioners were asked by the Barry Conservation 4H Camp their interest in sponsoring a child to attend. The Commissioners agreed that this could be a beneficial opportunity for a child, but would like to see a child from Bennington receive this opportunity. Camp programs are available for children 8 to 16 for \$485 a week. Commissioners will contact Letitia Rice and the library to help promote this camp. Commissioners will ask any child interested in the camp to submit a letter of interest.
 - iv. **Letter for the Treasurer**- The Commissioners received a letter from the Town Treasurer regarding \$575.96 deposited from the 2013 unexpended funds. The Commissioners would like to know the balance of the bank account and how much money has been deposited from land brought out of current use.
 - v. **NH Conservation Dues**- The Commissioners made a motion to pay their annual dues. The motion passed.
 - vi. **NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists**- The Commissioners received a request for membership to the NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists. At this time the Commissioners are not interested in becoming members.
 - vii. **New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services**- The Commissioners received notice of the Monadnock Paper Mill's water quality.

- viii. **Earth Day**- The Commissioners set a tentative date of Saturday April 19, 2014 for their Earth Day celebration. The Monadnock Paper Mill has contacted the Commissioners regarding donations to the event. Chairwoman Germain will contact the Monadnock Paper Mill with the set date. Joe MacGregor will contact Patrick Greene to see if he would be willing to make breakfast again this year. The Commissioners would like to expand the Earth Day celebration events with the possibility of an invasive species walk.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary