

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting- March 19, 2015
Minutes Approved- April 16, 2015

Present: John Baybutt- Chairman, Valerie Germain, Jon Manley

Guests: Rose Melanson, Doreen Robertson

Chairman John Baybutt called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes from the February 19, 2015 meetings were approved as written.

2. Old Business

a. Earth Day

- i. The Commissioners set April 18, 2015 for the Earth Day cleanup from 9 am to noon. Breakfast will begin at 8 am.
- ii. The Daisy troop has expressed interest in making a presentation for the event.
- iii. Jon will talk to Scott Liljeberg regarding Earth Day clean up at Newhall field.
- iv. Jon has spoken to the Selectmen regarding the clean up.
- v. Jon reported that the Fire Department will be involved with the Earth Day event in some way and the Highway Department will pick up trash bags along the different routes.
- vi. Rose will place a flyer up at the post office.
- vii. John expressed his desire to see the Earth Day event involve more than roadside cleanup.
- viii. Valerie will get the blue trash bags and update signs for the event.
- ix. Patrick Greene will be approached about a waffle donation again this year.
- x. Jon proposed that the Country Store and Common Place Restaurant be approached regarding buying coffee instead of competing with them. He will approach the businesses.
- xi. Jon has two tents to be set up at the VFW for the Earth Day event.
- xii. John would like to provide information at the VFW regarding pollinators.

- xiii. The following groups and individuals will be invited to the Earth Day celebration:

Sportsman Club –Rte 47	
Girl Scouts	
Boy Scouts (Brian Beihl)	
Recreation Committee	
Fire Department	
After school Science Club	
Town Clerks Office	
Monadnock Paper Mill-donation?	
Police Department	
Selectmen	
Highway Department	
Historical Society	
Indoor Soccer club (Brian)	
Exercise Groups (Diana Beam)	
Baseball	
Water & Sewer Department	
ZBA	
Planning Board	
Supervisors of Checklists	
Budget Committee	
Crotched Mountain Ski	
Library (story walk?)	

b. UNH Barry Conservation Camp

- i. Valerie updated Chairman Baybutt on the individual who was signed up for camp. The cost is \$495. Valerie has paid the \$150 deposit. The Commissioners made a motion and seconded the motion for Valerie to be reimbursed the deposit amount.
- ii. Valerie has contacted Rick Reed regarding if the Barry Conservation Camp fits the requirements for the Edes Scholarship fund. Reed asked that the student attending write an essay to apply for the scholarship. Valerie will also write a letter of recommendation.
- iii. The Commissioners will ask the student attending the Camp to report back to the Commissioners after she attends.

3. New Business

a. Timber Cut Tax

- i. Jon reported on a timber cut tax bill that he proposed. There are already RSA's that address timber cut taxes. Jon met with the Selectmen and notified them of the RSA that designates money to conservation.

- ii. A warrant article will need to be written for town election next year if the Commissioners would like to go ahead with collecting a percentage of timber cut tax.
- b. Railroad Trestle
 - i. Jon spoke to Selectmen and provided them with the name to petition keeping the trestle open.
- c. Room and Meals tax
 - i. Chairman Baybutt will look into the room and meals tax. A portion is supposed to be brought back to the community.
- d. Forest
 - i. Val reported that there has been damage to some trees in the forest. The Commissioners will be cleaning up these trees.
- e. Annual Dues
 - i. Valerie reported that the Commissioners received a notice from NHACC for past due annual dues. The current year expenditures line item shows that the amount has been paid. Valerie will follow up with Denise French. At the same time she will find out what the expenditure for \$80 for technical assistance line item was for.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary