

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting- June 18, 2015
Minutes Approved on- August 20, 2015

Present: John Baybutt, Valerie Germain, Jon Manley, Stephen Willette
Guest: Peter Martel

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

1. VFW/Depot Project
 - a. Peter Martel, representative from the Building Committee and Energy Committee, approached the Commissioners requesting that a letter be written in support of the VFW project to be submitted with the LCHIP grant that is being written.
 - b. Jon asked if the project is to restore the VFW to make it historically accurate or to increase the functionality of the building. Peter explained that the architect that has been hired has drawn up plans to preserve what still exists while making changes so the building can be used for more Town functions.
 - c. Valerie asked for a realistic time frame to complete the project. Peter estimated next summer depending upon approval for grants and fundraising. The architect estimates the cost of the project to be around \$300,000. The LCHIP grant provides up to 50% of the cost, however the Town needs to provide 25% of the cost in cash. The committee will also be seeking funding from Eversource to meet some of the energy needs.
 - d. Valerie will write a draft letter and send to the Commissioners to review.
2. Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the May 21, 2015 meetings were approved as written.
3. Old Business
 - a. UNH Barry Conservation Camp
 - i. Valerie reported that she has not heard any updates regarding the scholarship award. The camp tuition has been paid in full from the Commissioners education line item. If the scholarship is awarded, the Commissioners will request the money to reimburse the line item.
 - b. After-School Science Club
 - i. Valerie reported the after-school science club was successful and fun.
 - c. Railroad Trestle
 - i. Jon reported that he has taken pictures of trestles Milford through Lyndeborough to Bennington. No other railroad trestles are chained off.
 - d. Invasive Species Eradication
 - i. Stephen has begun mapping the location of invasive species along the roadsides in Bennington along with a description of the size of the patch. Stephen shared a copy of a map that he has created. At this time he has identified the location of knotweed, barberry, burning bush, sumac, and multiflora rose.
 - ii. John proposed contacting an expert for eradicating invasive species.
 - e. Putting Land into Conservation
 - i. John proposed inviting the Society of Protection of NH Forests to the September meeting to do a presentation on putting land into conservation.
 - f. Collaboration with Frankestown Conservation Commissioners

