

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting- October 29, 2015
Minutes Approved on- November 19, 2015

Present: Valerie Germain, Jon Manley, Stephen Willette, Joseph MacGregor
Guest: Peter Martel

Valerie Germain called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

1. VFW LCHIP update-
 - a. Peter Martel updated the Conservation Commissioners on the status/progress of the LCHIP grant. The grant application was submitted and a committee has come to see the VFW. The grant committee asked about the possibility of completing the VFW restoration over a period of time through several projects. No decisions have been made yet regarding the grant.
2. Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the September 17, 2015 meeting were approved with a minor amendment.
 - b. The minutes from the October 22, 2015 meeting were approved as written.
3. Natural Resources Inventory
 - a. The Commissioners discussed that the Natural Resources Inventory provides information regarding the resources in Town and planning for the future.
 - b. Valerie notified the Commissioners that in reference to the budget proposal for NRI, the Budget Committee is looking for information from the Planning Board regarding the Master Plan and a time table for the completion of the plan.
 - c. Joe provided the Commissioners with a copy of a survey utilized by the Town of Washington during their beginning stages of completing their NRI. The Town of Washington worked in collaboration with UNH to develop their NRI. The Commissioners also discussed the survey sent out by the Bennington Planning Board in 2014 to gather information for the Master Plan. The results were viewed to gather insight to the town opinion regarding conservation.
 - d. The Commissioners expressed an interest of meeting with the Planning Board in hopes of working collaboratively on the Master Plan and NRI projects.
 - e. Action Plan
 - i. The Conservation Commissioners would like to have a full board of seven members that represent a diverse group of individuals from the community. The Commissioners discussed possible people who directly use Town resources that may provide insight and input to the Commissioners regarding the resources.
 - ii. Henry Underwood from Southwest Regional will be invited to the next meeting. The Commissioners are seeking for his input and guidance on how to proceed with the NRI. The Commissioners will ask for his input on outside sources that may be appropriate monetary sources for completing the NRI.

- iii. The Commissioners would like to reach out to the Planning Board after their meeting with Henry Underwood in order to discuss the possibilities of working together on projects.
- iv. Valerie will email Nick Coates to see if NRI's are mandated to be developed for each town.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary