

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

Present: John Baybutt, Valerie Germain, Jon Manley, Stephen Willette, Joseph MacGregor
Guest: Mike Munhall
Henry Underwood- Southwest Regional

Chairman Baybutt called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes from the October 29, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

2. Natural Resources Inventory

- a. Henry Underwood from Southwest Regional attended the meeting. The Commissioners are seeking for his input and guidance on how to proceed with the NRI. Henry's role with Southwest is with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to create stand alone maps and utilize methods to analyze data for Towns.
- b. Henry presented a brief proposal of elements included in a Natural Resources Inventory along with additional items that could be added for a more in depth NRI. A basic inventory would include visual maps, tables/graphs, and a descriptive narrative.
- c. It was discussed that some of the maps are available through Granite. Henry stated that a benefit of the work provided by Southwest would be the provision of town-specific summaries of these maps.
- d. Henry presented a timeline for the project which included a 2-4 month period to create a preliminary report to present to the Commissioners. With feedback on this report a final draft is completed and presented. The final report is formatted in hard and electronic copies.
- e. Henry presented an estimate for the project to be \$6,800. This fee is based upon the number of hours it takes.
- f. The Commissioners asked if the NRI can be completed in stages. While it is recommended to complete the portions at the same time, the Commissioners could decided to prioritize the order in which the inventory was completed in order to break up the work over a period of time. In doing this, the timeline would need to be extended and the cost of the project may change.
- g. The Commissioners asked if it would be possible to view other towns NRI completed by Southwest. Henry will send out several examples completed by Southwest. In addition to these examples he will send examples completed by other places in order to compare and contrast. This will benefit the Commissioners as they decide what is best to include in Bennington's NRI.
- h. The Commissioners asked if invasive species mapping is a possibility. While comprehensible data of invasive species locations is not available to Southwest, they may be able to identify hotspots and potential areas along with best practices when it comes to invasive species.
- i. The Commissioners expressed that it would be important for the Town NRI to include colorful maps. They would like the end result to be easily accessible and comprehensible for the

townspeople. The Commissioners see the NRI as beneficial to a number of different boards in town and as an educational resource.

- j. Henry provided the Commissioners with a hard copy of Conservation Land Map that was created in 2008.
- k. The Commissioners thanked Henry for his time.
- l. The Commissioners discussed possible funding for the NRI including warrant article, Town budget, and grants such as the Moose Plate Grant.
- m. The Commissioners will contact the Planning Board to be placed on their agenda for Monday, November 23, 2015 to discuss the Master Plan and NRI.

3. Other

- a. Chairman Baybutt informed the Commissioners that he received information regarding the possibility of changing Antrim Road from a town road to a State Road.
- b. Chairman Baybutt informed the Commissioners that there is a proposal to create a board made up of individuals on a variety of Town boards to help in the decision process of deciding which roads in town to pave.
- c. Mike Munhall was presented to the Commissioners. He would like to join the board. The Commissioners will present him to the Selectmen in order to be appointed to the Conservation Commission.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary