

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting- January 28, 2016

Minutes Approved on- February 18, 2016

Present: John Baybutt, Valerie Germain, Jon Manley, Stephen Willette,  
Joseph MacGregor, and Mike Munhall

Valerie Germain called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes from the December 17, 2015 meeting were approved with an amendment.

2. Town Report

- a. The deadline for the Town Report was extended for the Conservation Commissioners until February 1, 2016.
- b. It was noted that a warrant article for the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) will be on the town ballot. It was questioned whether or not a Master Plan is required to have a NRI. The Commissioners expressed that they would have liked the opportunity to be in attendance when the Planning Board discussed the NRI and made their vote. The Commissioners felt that it would be beneficial to educate voters regarding the NRI. As the Town will be mailing out a voter's guide, the Commissioners will see if they can provide information in that mailing to voters. It would also be beneficial to include an article in the local newspaper regarding the warrant article.
- c. The Commissioners shared highlights of the past year. Val Germain will use these highlights in order to compile a narrative for the Town Report. It will be emailed to members for feedback prior to submission.

3. Bobcat Season

- a. Jon Manley reported that there have been legislative hearings as Fish and Game Commissioners are proposing a bobcat hunting season. The population in the southwest region of New Hampshire is on the rise. The next legislative hearing will be on February 1, 2016.

4. Railroad Trestle

- a. Jon Manley and Joe MacGregor reported to the Commissioners about their trip to Concord to discuss the gated trestle in Bennington. They had posed to those in the Concord meeting how Bennington could model our bridge after other bridges in the State that have open access. Those at the Concord meeting learned that the State is responsible for the bridge. A majority of the parties in attendance voiced their concerns regarding the integrity of the bridge. An interest was shared by all for fixing the bridge.

5. 2016 Goals

- a. The Commissioners shared the following goals for the 2016 year:
  - i. Railroad trestle
  - ii. Trail maintenance in Edes Forest
  - iii. Perambulation-Hancock line, complete Greenfield line
  - iv. River Cleanup

- v. Crotched Mountain trail map
- vi. Continue working with Frankestown Conservation Commissioners and Frankestown Land Trust
- vii. Warrant article to allocate money from gravel tax and timber tax in order to purchase land for conservation.

6. Other

- a. It was shared that the Southwest Planning Commission will be meeting February 16, 2016 at 5:45 p.m. The discussion will be on the NH 2016 Legislative Session.
- b. There has been a change of leadership at the NHACC to Carol Andrews, Bristol Town Administrator.
- c. NHACC dues will be submitted to be paid.

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