

TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting- February 18, 2016  
Minutes Approved on- March 17, 2016

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

Valerie Germain called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

1. Bobcat Season

- a. Jon Manley updated the Commissioners regarding the proposal in legislation for a bobcat hunting season. The Commissioners made a motion and all were in favor of writing a letter to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules stating the Commissioners stance on the issue. With the information shared regarding the bobcat hunting season, the Commissioners oppose the decision to open a bobcat season at this time. Valerie Germain will draft a letter stating their opposition. It will be emailed to members for feedback prior to submission.

2. Minutes

- a. The minutes from the January 28, 2016 meeting were approved with an amendment.

3. Sponsoring Campers

- a. Valerie Germain reported that the deadline for Barry Conservation Camp has already passed. At this time, information from UNH is only received at the Commissioners Town Hall address. She will contact UNH in order to have the Conservation Commissioners email and/or mailing addresses added to their database.
- b. The Commissioners expressed their interest in seeking out other camp experiences that are local. Both Barbara C. Harris and the Harris Center offer summer camp experiences. As the Barbara C. Harris programs are available only to students in the early elementary grades, the Commissioners focused their search on programs offered at the Harris Center.
- c. The Commissioners have money available in the budget for two day campers at the Harris Center. The Commissioners first preferences would be to send individuals who were interested in the programs available for Rovers and Voyagers (4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade). They will ask that individuals who are interested submit an essay expressing their interest and what they hope to gain from the experience. A motion was made and all were in favor to sponsor two Bennington students to attend a week long day camp program at the Harris Center. The Harris Center will be contacted to see if it is possible to reserve spots for the campers in advance prior to selection of camp program.

4. Earth Day/Collaboration with the GEP Dodge Library

- a. Joseph MacGregor presented a brochure created by the librarian, Leslie MacGregor highlighting a town-wide reading of Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson along with programs, book discussions, etc. Leslie would like to tie this book into Earth Day. The Commissioners would like to be involved with this library program.
- b. The Conservation Commissioners set April 30, 2016 for the Town-wide Earth Day event. Joseph MacGregor will notify Leslie of the date.

5. Boat Launch
  - a. Joseph MacGregor reported that he had been approached regarding the establishment of a boat launch near the North Bennington iron bridge. The land located to the left of the road is part of a 100-acre privately owned parcel of land. The Commissioners will continue to gather information.
6. NRI Warrant Article
  - a. The Commissioners discussed different ways to promote the warrant article for the Natural Resource Inventory. Mike Munhall will contact the local newspaper regarding an article and a letter to the editor.
7. On Saturday April 9, 2016 University of NH will be hosting a presentation on Saving Special places 2016.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett  
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary