

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting- March 17, 2016

Minutes Approved on-

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

Chariman John Baybutt called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes from the February 18, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

2. Earth Day

- a. The Conservation Commissioners set April 30, 2016 for the Town-wide Earth Day event.
- b. It was noted that several individuals in Town have already started road side clean-up.
- c. The Conservation Commissioners began planning for Earth Day. The banner and garbage bags are currently located at the Town Hall. The Conservation Commissioners will utilize the Town signs to help advertise the event. Valerie Germain will do the shopping in order to serve breakfast. Mike Munhall will submit the event to the Transcript-Ledger. Stephen Willette and Jon Manley have tents that can be set up at the VFW.
- d. The Daisies and Clover buds have expressed interest in setting up a table at the VFW during the event.
- e. The Conservation Commissioners will personally invite Selectmen and Fire Department. It was noted that it would be beneficial for the Town to set up a group email in order for the different Town committees to communicate with one another.
- f. Interest was expressed for using the day to extend the progress made on the invasive species project at the VFW or putting in plants.

3. Bobcat Season

- a. Jon Manley updated the Commissioners regarding the proposal in legislation for a bobcat hunting season. The bill has moved to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules. Currently the Senate and House of Representatives have bills that could result in postponement of the hunt.
- b. Valerie Germain will email the letter stating their opposition to the hunt to Conservation Commissioners for feedback prior to submission.

4. Sponsoring Campers

- a. Mike Munhall shared the press release and application he has written notifying Bennington citizens of the opportunity to attend camp at the Harris Center. The Conservation Commissioners discussed the use of the Town website and Facebook as other ways to notify students and families.

5. NRI Warrant Article

- a. The warrant article for raising and appropriating \$3,000 for the development of a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) was passed.
- b. David McKenzie had approached a Conservation Commissioner concerning the content of the Master Plan and if the existing information would be of use for the NRI. The Commissioner shared with David McKenzie the information the Commissioners had learned in their review and the information that was gathered with the Southwest presentation. The information in the Master Plan at this time is 25 years old.
- c. Chairman John Baybutt proposed inviting Jeff Littleton from Chesterfield, NH to the May 19, 2016 meeting. Jeff is another resource for completing Natural Resource Inventories.

6. Perambulation

- a. The Conservation Commissioners set April 9, 2016 at 9 a.m. to complete the Greenfield perambulation line. The Commissioners will work on the stretch from Rte 31 to the river.
- b. The Greenfield Conservation Commissioners will be notified of the date.

7. Other

- a. DES has reported a decrease in the acidity of the lakes and ponds.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett  
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary