

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting- June 16, 2016
Minutes Approved on- August 18, 2016

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

Chairman John Baybutt called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes from the May 26, 2016 meeting were approved with a minor amendment.

2. Review of May 26, 2016 meeting

- a. Chairman Baybutt brought all members in attendance up to date with items discussed during the May 26, 2016 meeting.

- i. Whittemore Beach

- 1. Replenishing Town Beach sand- A permit was signed during the May meeting on behalf of the Recreation Department seeking less than 10 cubic yard of beach sand to replenish the existing beach front.
 - 2. Lifeguards- the Town is seeking to hire a beach attendant to enforce policies and town-only usage.

- ii. NRI-

- 1. Review of May 26, 2016 meeting -Those in attendance met with Jeff Littleton from Moosewood Ecological.
 - 2. Chairman Baybutt shared that the general consensus of the members who met Jeff was that he seemed to be quite knowledgeable and someone who would be willing to dig in and explore Bennington. Jeff had emailed Chairman Baybutt with a possible break down of phases for the completion of the NRI.
 - 3. Jon Manley expressed his interest in protecting the water resources in Bennington.
 - 4. A motion was made and seconded to table any decisions regarding the NRI until a time when the Commissioners can compare NRI proposals from both Jeff Littleton and Southwest Regional. All were in favor. It was suggested that the Commissioners draft exactly what they would like to see as results from phase I and request job proposals that are broken down into phases from both Littleton and Southwest Regional. The Commissioners will ask the Selectmen if the creation of a town NRI will need to be advertised or if they can proceed with the two candidates.
 - 5. The Commissioners discussed how to best utilize the NRI in order for it to be useful and not placed on a shelf. It is important to the Commissioners that this is a resource that other Town boards will see value in and will utilize as decisions are made for the Town. One priority the Commissioners have set is identifying a future potential location of a second well for Bennington.

3. New Business

- a. Town calendar- The Commissioners will request that the town website and meeting schedule will be updated to reflect the following changes: Third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. May-October at the VFW, November-April at the Town Hall.
- b. A motion was made and seconded to cancel the July 14, 2016 meeting. All were in favor.
- c. Mike Munhall asked for an update on the Earth Day event. The Commissioners felt that there was a good turn-out and over 100 trash bags were collected. In the future, the Commissioners would like to see a focus on making the day educational.
- d. Invasive Species- Jon Manley wondered if there was a way to turn invasive species into insecticides.
- e. Correspondence- A guide for the Great Bay Discovery Center, Picking Our Battles: A Guide to Planning Successful Invasive Plant Management Projects was received. Joe MacGregor will bring the guide home and return it to the Conservation Commissioners mailbox at the Town Hall once he is done.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary