

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

Conservation Commission

Minutes of Community Forum- October 20, 2016

Minutes Approved on- November 17, 2016

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

Guests: Jeff Littleton- Moosewood Ecological LLC

Chairman Baybutt called the Community Forum to order at 6:35 p.m. The Bennington Conservation Commissioners met at Pierce Elementary School for the Natural Resources Inventory Community Forum. In all, 26 members of the community met to discuss the strengths of Bennington's Natural Resources. Chairman Baybutt introduced Jeff Littleton and the basis and goals of the Natural Resources Inventory.

The following are strengths of Bennington's Natural Resources that were shared by the Commissioners and the community members:

- Eskers (Sand and gravel)
- Aquifers (clean drinking water)
- Wildlife diversity
- Forests (renewable resource, employment)
- People
- Recreation
  - Trails network/rail trail
  - Crotched Mountain Ski area
  - Bell Ledges
  - Powder Mill Pond
  - Town Forest (Bruce Edes Forest- 37 acres)
  - Lakes/ponds (swimming, fishing)
- Diversified lands and habitats
- Farmlands

- State snowmobile corridor
- Dams (variety of water access, electricity production, history)
- Numerous current use lands (recreation, hunting)
- Whittimore Lake
- Variety of topography

The community also discussed Bennington's most significant natural areas. Those in attendance discussed what makes these areas special and how they are utilized. These areas include:

- Bruce Edes Forest
- Crotched Mountain Ski area
- Contoocook River corridor (ponded areas created by dams)
- Canoe port along Rte 202 on Powder Mill Pond
- Bell Ledges (spectacular views)
- Current Use lands
- Wetlands (wildlife diversity, aquifer recharge)
- Deer wintering areas
- Aquifer

The next steps in the Natural Resource Inventory are to conduct site assessments, a public presentation, and the creation of a set of NRI maps. Jeff Littleton will report any wildlife identification, and the identification and location of any invasive species.

The Commissioners thanked the community for their input and invited the community to continue discussing Bennington's resources over refreshments. The Commissioners also thanked Jeff Littleton.

There being no other business at hand, the community forum was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett

Conservation Commission Recording Secretary