

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting- November 17, 2016

Minutes Approved on- December 15, 2016

Present: John Baybutt, Jon Manley, Stephen Willette, and Valerie Germain

Guests: Tom James

Chairman John Baybutt called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

1. Introduction of Guest
 - a. Stephen Willette introduced Tom James, a resident of Bennington who is interested in learning more about the Conservation Commission. He has expressed an interest in joining.
2. Phase II NRI
 - a. Chairman Baybutt shared with the Commissioners the voting results from the 2016 warrant article requesting funds for Phase I of the NRI. This warrant article passed with 52 percent of the votes in favor.
3. Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the September 15, 2016 meeting were approved as written.
 - b. The minutes from the October 20, 2016 Community Forum were approved as written.
4. NRI
 - a. Jeff Littleton has emailed a topographical map and an unfragmented lands map to each of the Commissioners to review for accuracy. The Commissioners reviewed the maps on the computer. The Commissioners noted that it appeared the maps do not show all the roads in Bennington. It was also noted that the unfragmented lands map should show the gravel pits. Jon Manley believes the conservation land located near Mountain Road on the map belongs to another town.
 - b. The Commissioners were very pleased with the community turnout for the community forum. Tom James gave the Commissioners positive feedback for their forethought to preserve unobstructed lands in Bennington.
 - c. The Commissioners will ask Jeff Littleton to provide a dollar amount for the Phase II Warrant article.
 - d. Jeff Littleton will be in Bennington on Monday, November 21, 2016 at 9 a.m. to review Town properties. Jon Manley will meet with him and share the Commissioners notes regarding the maps.
5. Water
 - a. The dam project is almost completed.

- b. Jon Manley reported that the River Committee had an expert present information on invasive species. There is a vine type of honey suckle that has been found in only two locations in New Hampshire, Bennington is one of those locations. The presenter highly recommended having a budget line for mitigating invasive species.
 - c. Bennington and Antrim wells are connected. It was reported that Antrim is seeking a new location for their town well. The Commissioners are interested in seeking out a secondary location in Town if there is ever a need for the well to be relocated.
 - d. One item the community listed as important to the Town during the NRI public forum was aquifers.
6. Member positions
- a. The Commissioners thanked Tom for coming tonight and expressing his interest to be a commissioner. Chairman Baybutt will contact the Selectmen regarding appointing Tom to the Board.
7. Railroad Trestle
- a. It was asked when the gate on the railroad will be opened. Jon Manley has received pictures and a copy of the bridge inspection. He needs to get the price from Peter Leischman for the bridge repairs. Jon has approached Annie Kuster regarding the bridge in Bennington. Repairs to the bridge will benefit many.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett

Conservation Commission Recording Secretary