

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting- December 15, 2016

Minutes Approved on- January 19, 2017

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

Chairman John Baybutt called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

1. Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the November 17, 2016 meeting were approved as written.
2. Railroad Trestle
 - a. Jon Manley reported to the Commissioners that he has received a price for the bridge repairs on the railroad trestle from Peter Leischman. This information will make it possible to move forward on finding federal funding for the project.
3. NRI
 - a. Jon Manley met with Jeff Littleton on November 21, 2016 to show him around Town and to review the maps that have been created. When Jeff uses the older topographical maps, he uses current overlays. The Commissioners thanked Jon for sharing his knowledge of the Town with Jeff.
 - b. The Commissioners reviewed the large topographical map and unfragmented lands map that Phil Germain printed. The Commissioners sent their thanks to Phil for his help with printing the large maps for them.
4. Warrant Articles
 - a. It was noted that the Selectmen shall be notified of all proposed warrant articles by January 2, 2017.
 - b. NRI Phase II
 - i. The Commissioners emailed Jeff Littleton for a quote for Phase II of the NRI and to inquire if there are other maps still in process as a part of Phase I. The Commissioners are interested in a map that reflects the conservation lands.
 - ii. Valerie and John will draft a warrant article for funds for Phase II of the NRI.
 - iii. It was noted that \$5,500 has been deposited into the account from taxes being collected for land use change. John will research if the money in the account can be used or if it is earmarked for specific usage.
 - c. Timber and Gravel Tax

- i. A warrant article will be submitted to take part of the unanticipated timber and gravel tax to be placed into a conservation fund. The warrant article is necessary as it directs the Selectmen to allocate the amount to go into a conservation fund.
 - ii. Joe and Jon will research to see if other Towns have wording for directing the Selectmen to allocate money collected from Timber and Gravel to be placed into a conservation fund. Joe and Jon will draft the warrant article.
 - iii. It was proposed that the funds could be used to purchase property that is sensitive to the Town.
5. Chairman position
 - a. Valerie offered to co-chair if anyone was interested.
6. 2016 Accomplishments
 - a. Worked on eradicating the invasive plants at the VFW.
 - b. Phase I of the NRI.
7. Goals for 2017
 - a. The Commissioners will set new goals at their January meeting.
8. River Committee news
 - a. Joe, on behalf of the River Committee, approached the Commissioners regarding a donation to the River Committee for water testing equipment necessary for testing the river. The Commissioners are in support of the River Committee bringing the request forward to the Selectmen to ask for Town support from the General Fund.
9. Earth Day
 - a. The Monadnock Paper Mill donation for the Earth Day celebration has not been received by the Conservation Commission. Valerie had purchased the supplies needed for the event. A motion was made and all were in favor of cutting a check with the \$49.00 remaining in the budget to Valerie to help offset the money she spent.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett

Conservation Commission Recording Secretary