

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting- June 15, 2017
Minutes Approved on-

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

Co-Chair Stephen Willette called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

1. Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the May 18, 2017 meeting were approved with a minor amendment.
2. Perambulation
 - a. The Commissioners were not able to meet on June 10, 2017 to complete the Hancock-Bennington perambulation. The Commissioners set a tentative date of December 2, 2017.
3. River Float
 - a. The River Float is scheduled for June 24, 2017. Mike Munhall asked about advertising the River Float. Jon and Joe have notified the River Committee. Joe is unavailable on June 24, 2017, but offered the use of his truck and trailer to the Commissioners. John Baybutt made a motion and all were in favor of rescheduling the River Float to July 1, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. in order to advertise.
4. Library Program
 - a. Joe MacGregor notified the Commissioners that the GEP Dodge Library is working on setting up hosting a presentation on trout.
 - b. The GEP Dodge Library has also made contact on hosting a program on invasive species held by Valerie Starbuck. A date has not been set.
5. Correspondence
 - a. Valerie Germain notified the Commissioners through email that Scot Heath of the Francestown Conservation Commission and Francestown Land Trust has reached out to the Bennington Commissioners to notify that there is a resident on the backside of Crotched Mountain that has land in which they are seeking to place into conservation and are asking for a letter of support from the Bennington Commissioners that can be included in their LCHIP grant. If this land is put into conservation easement, it will add 100 acres to land in conservation. Valerie Germain has offered to draft the letter if the Commissioners are in support. The Commissioners made a motion and all were in favor of sending a letter in support of Francestown seeking to place this land into conservation.
 - b. The property in question on the backside of Crotched Mountain was acquired through delinquent taxes. It is the Commissioners understanding, per to previous agreements with the Board of Selectmen that when properties in Town are acquired through delinquent taxes and are available for sale, the Conservation Commissioners should be notified. The Commissioners recognize the need for formal notifications for properties

acquired through delinquent taxes, timber cuts, and culverts in order for the Commissioners to make recommendations. Jon Manley and John Baybutt will draft a letter to send to the Selectmen and Town Administrator seeking this information going forward that will be sent annually.

6. The Commissioner thanked Achille Agway for volunteering support for the Conservation float for the 175th Town Anniversary celebration. The Commissioners also extended their thanks to Joe MacGregor for the use of his trailer. The Commissioners also thanked Mike Munhall for putting the float together.
7. The Commissioners would like to request that VFW be added to properties taken care of for mowing/weed control. Co-Chair Steve Willette will contact Denise French about the VFW property and will also mention that triangular land to the Bennington entrance. The Commissioners offered that if money is not in the budget, they would be willing to mow and take care of the triangular land once in order for the Town to continue with maintaining the land after.
8. Jon Manley and Joe MacGregor will be presenting on July 10, 2017 to the Greenfield Planning Board regarding the river management plan.
9. Jon Manley is presenting on July 11, 2017 at the Greenfield Library regarding the mass extinction that is currently occurring.
10. The Commissioners made a motion and all were in favor of not holding a meeting in July.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Belcher

Conservation Commission Recording Secretary