

TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting- October 25, 2017

Minutes Approved on- November 16, 2017

Present: Jon Manley, Joe MacGregor, John Baybutt, Tom James, and Valerie Germain  
Special Guest: Ronan Clough

Co-Chair Valerie Germain called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Agenda

- 1. Scholarship Recipient for Summer Camp Scholarship**
- 2. Minutes from August**
- 3. Town Owned Non-buildable lots forward to Town Admin**
- 4. Samuels Property Update**
- 5. Selective Cut on Old Stagecoach Road**
- 6. NRI Phase II**
- 7. Funding for Land Purchases**
- 8. Nastasi Property**

**1. Scholarship Recipient for Summer Camp Scholarship**

Conservation members welcomed Ronan Clough, one of the two Bennington students who was awarded a scholarship for one week of summer camp at the Harris Center. Ronan shared some of his learning experiences such as hiking Mt. Skatutakee, canoeing to Spoonwood and playing canoe tag, and finding deer tracks. Hiking was Ronan's favored experience. He is willing come to Pierce School and discuss the camp experience with 3rd & 4th graders to encourage others students to apply for the scholarship.

**2. Minutes from August** - The minutes from the August 17, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

**3. Town Owned Non-buildable Lots**

A Commission report reviewing some Town owned lots was previewed by members. The Commission favors the Town retain the lots and will forward the report to Town Administrators for review by the Selectmen.

**4. Samuels Property Update**

Scot Heath, of the Francestown Land Trust (FLT) contacted Val Germain to give an update regarding the property on Mountain Road. Verney Foundation donated \$10,000 to assist in the purchase of the property.

**5. Selective Cut on Old Stagecoach Road**

The Selectmen requested that the Commission review and make recommendations for a selective timber cut on the Town owned lot between the Catholic Cemetery and

Evergreen Cemetery on Old Stagecoach Road with the intent to improve the quality of the forest. Members are in favor of this cut and would like to ask that a forester be hired to make recommendations and have the cut overseen by Town Highway Department.

Action Item: Clarify with Dee as to whether the deed of ownership was ever resolved.

#### **6) NRI Phase II**

Phase II is completed and we will contact Jeff about a spring public forum. Members discussed the possibility of including a walk with the presentation

#### **7) Funding for Land Purchases**

The Commission will pursue two warrant articles to encumber funds for the purchase of conservation easements and preservation of lands critical to the protection of water resources. One article will ask to encumber funds from timber and gravel taxes. The other will be to establish a Conservation fund.

Members also discussed requesting money from the Selectmen to establish this fund given the \$90,000 that was put into the Town's general fund this year when the Sewer CRF was discontinued at Town Meeting.

Action Item: Find out the deadline for the submission of warrant articles. Jon will get some clarification on the wording of the articles.

#### **8) Nastasi Property**

Joe has had some conversations with Mrs. Nastasi about her 140 acres on North Bennington Road regarding her plans for the land. The land has river frontage as well as power lines and old railroad track.

Action Item: Follow up with Mrs. Nastasi with a note and offer to assist her if we can.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Germain  
Co-chair