

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting- February 15, 2018

Minutes Approved on- March 15, 2018

Present: Valerie Germain, Jon Manley, Joseph MacGregor, John Baybutt, and Thomas James

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

1. Minutes
  - a. The minutes from the January 18, 2018 meeting were accepted as written.
2. Samuels property
  - a. Val Germain reported that the Francestown Land Trust date to close on the property is nearing, which does not allow for proper amount of time to execute the paperwork necessary for an easement. In lieu of an easement, The Francestown Land Trust can offer Bennington a Secondary Executive Interest rights, the Conservation Commissioners were in favor of this.
3. Warrant Articles
  - a. Jon Manley reported that there are four warrant articles relative to the Conservation Commissioners on the 2018 Town Warrant:
    - i. \$5,000 to be contributed to the Conservation Commission Fund from unassigned fund balance.
    - ii. \$15,364 to be contributed to the fund from the timber tax that was unanticipated funds collected last year
    - iii. \$319 to be contributed to the fund from the gravel tax
    - iv. The authority for the Conservation Commissioners to expend money to third parties.
  - b. The Commissioners have been asked to put together wording to go to the voters to explain the warrant articles.
    - i. Action item: Val Germain will draft information to be included in the voters' guide.
  - c. The Commissioners discussed whether a letter to the editor should be drafted. How does information get passed to the voters when few come to Deliberative?
4. Natural Resources Inventory
  - a. The Commissioners discussed holding a second public forum. A tentative date of March 22, 2018 was set. The Commissioners will hold both their monthly meeting and the public forum.
5. Summer Camp Application
  - a. In the last few years the application has been made available in March. The Commissioners will open the summer camp application to an upper elementary student and a middle school student.
    - i. Action Item: Val Germain will update the camp application.

- b. There is a new camp, Lab Girls Afield opening up at the Harris Center. Val will explore the camp experience offerings and forward information to the Commissioners.
- 6. River Committee
  - a. The Commissioners will forward the request for donation from the River Committee to the Selectmen.
- 7. Davey Property
  - a. John Baybutt reported that in past years he has helped the owner of the property on Route 47 with taking down his barn, haying the fields, etc. and he noted that there were many songbirds in the fields. However, he has noticed that he does not see the songbirds anymore. He is going to let the field grow up again to see if the birds come back.
- 8. Year Goals
  - a. The Commissioners reviewed their monthly goals for the year:
    - i. Perambulation- Bennington-Hancock line tentatively set for April 28, 2018 meeting at the VFW. The Commissioners will reach out to the Hancock Selectmen, Hancock Conservation Commissioners
    - ii. Earth Day- The event is set for April 21, 2018. The Commissioners will check on the availability for the Earth Day event.
    - iii. Review invasive species
    - iv. View the Contoocook River-May
    - v. Update the website- June
    - vi. Update the Bruce Edes Forest Brochure
    - vii. Member Recruitment- Joe MacGregor reported that at one of Jon Manley's Library discussions, Gary MacKinnon was in attendance and expressed interest in the Commission. Joe MacGregor provided his phone number and the Commissioners will reach out to him.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Karen Belcher  
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary