

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting- March 15, 2018

Minutes Approved on-

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

Guests: Doreen Robertson

Co-Chair Valerie Germain called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

1. Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the February 15, 2018 meeting were accepted as written.
2. Earth Day
 - a. The Conservation Commissioners set April 21, 2018 for the Town Earth Day event. Free breakfast will be served from 8:30- 10 a.m.
 - b. The Conservation Commissioners will ask the Monadnock Paper Mill for a donation of \$150 and syrup to go toward the Earth Day event costs. The Conservation Commissioners also expressed their gratitude for the Monadnock Paper Mill's support in past years.
 - c. The Conservation Commissioners discussed ways to entice the public to turn out for the event.
 - i. Serve breakfast- the Commissioners will check with the Administrator and Selectmen to see if the VFW pipes will be fixed before the event. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of alternative buildings to host the breakfast- Fire Department, School, Church.
 - ii. Participants can sign up for road sections. Doreen notified the Commissioners that the Bennington Democrats must count the number of bags they fill and report that number to the State for the route that they have adopted.
 - iii. The Commissioners will reach out to the Sportsman Club, Fire Department, Town Employees, Crotched Mountain Ski Area, Common Place, Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts to notify them of the cleanup event. Joe MacGregor notified the Commissioners that the Girl Scouts are interested in setting up an informational display at the VFW.
 - iv. The Commissioners will provide a reward for the most unusual piece of trash.
 - v. Joe MacGregor will reach out to Patrick Greene regarding waffles.
 - vi. Joe MacGregor will reach out to the GEP Dodge Library to see if they would be interested in hosting a book walk again this year.
 - vii. The public will be notified of the event through the banner, sign boards, publication in the newspaper, website, Facebook, Cold Springs Pond.
 - viii. The Commissioners will contact Steve Willette regarding the use of his tent.

- ix. Gary Russel has contacted the Commissioners regarding if Greenfield can place an order for blue trash bags to go in with Bennington's order. Joe MacGregor will contact Gary.
 - x. Jon Manley will contact Terry Hardwick regarding gloves for cleanup.
- 3. Summer Camp
 - a. Two camper spots (Rovers and Voyagers) have been reserved at the Harris Center for July 16-20, 2018.
 - b. At the Earth Day event, the Commissioners will present the Summer Camp scholarship opportunity. Interested individuals will be given two weeks from the Earth Day event to complete their applications.
- 4. Samuels property
 - a. The Warrant Article passed authorizing the Commissioners to expend funds to third-parties. The Commissioners had previously discussed contributing money to the Francestown Land Trust for the Samuels property purchase. In order to contribute the money, the Commissioners must notify the public of a public meeting to make this contribution. The Commissioners will notify the public of the public hearing at 7 p.m. at their April 19, 2018 meeting.
 - b. The Francestown Land Trust had still been looking for \$11,500 for the purchase of the Samuels property. An anonymous donor has come forward through the NH Charitable Trust Fund offering a 50/50 match toward the amount still needed for this project. Valerie Germain and her husband have sent out letters to Bennington residents asking for support. Joe MacGregor was approached by an individual who had received the letter why the Conservation Commissioners did not send out a letter. Joe explained to the individual that the letter was a private individual request and that the Commissioners felt that the Warrant Article was the Commissioners asking the town individuals for support. The Francestown Land Trust has reported that enough money has now been raised.
 - c. Ben Haubrich of the Francestown Land Trust, has compiled a significant amount of the property history that will be made available at the Bennington Town Hall.
- 5. Warrant Articles
 - a. All Warrant Articles impacting the Conservation Commissioners passed at the March election.
 - b. The Conservation Commissioners will need to put the warrant articles for the timber and gravel tax forth to the voters each year.
- 6. NRI Public Forum
 - a. The date requested for the final public forum did not work for Jeff. The Commissioners will ask if he would be available May 3 or May 10.
 - b. The Commissioners would like to display all of the created maps at the Public forum and at the Earth Day event.
- 7. Correspondence/ Other
 - a. The Commissioners were notified by DES regarding an Emergency Authorization for the Culvert Work- Tax Map 2:8 to replace two damaged culverts on South Bennington.
 - b. The Planning Board notified the Commissioners of a lot line adjustment for the Hardwick property. This is a multi-step project in which property was moved between the Hardwick's and a neighbor. Once this step has been completed the next step to adjust the lot line can be heard.

- c. Jon Manley notified the Commissioners that on April 4th the Antrim Conservation Commissioners will be hosting an Upland Invasive Species presentation at the Antrim Town Hall.
- d. Joe MacGregor asked if the Commissioners have received any feedback on the properties the Commissioners provided information to the Administrator and the Selectmen. The Commissioners will formally request feedback regarding these properties if the Town will continue to own these properties and if they would be considered to put into conservation. The Commissioners will also request a copy of all the town-owned properties.
- e. Joe MacGregor has contacted Gary McKinnon regarding his interest in the Conservation Commissioners board. Minutes will be forwarded to Gary.
- f. Valerie Germain shared with the Commissioners her excitement with everything that the Commissioners have been able to accomplish.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Karen Belcher
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary