

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting- June 21, 2018

Minutes Approved on- August 16, 2018

Present: Michael Munhall, Jon Manley, Joseph MacGregor, and Thomas James

Co-Chair Michael Munhall called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the May 17, 2018 meeting were accepted as written.
2. NRI
 - a. The Commissioners believe that the final NRI report is available online.
 - b. The Commissioners discussed reviewing the final report individually by the August meeting in order to make recommendations for goals and objectives. The Commissioners will present the final report to the Selectmen to be adopted as a formal document of the Town. The Commissioners will also present the final report to the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustments. The August Conservation Commissioners meeting will be primarily devoted to the NRI.
3. Rhubarb Festival Report
 - a. Jon Manley reported that community members who attended the Rhubarb Festival showed lots of interest in the NRI maps that were available to view. Terry Hardwick inquired at the festival when the maps will be available to view at the Town Hall. Also available for viewing was an overview of the work the Conservation Commissioners are involved in.
 - b. Jon Manley presented to the Commissioners a report dated June 27, 1989 which included the Commission's stated goals and objectives at the time of the Commission's establishment in March 1989. This report also included soil and water maps/information from 1989. The Commissioners were interested in reviewing the original goals and objectives of the Commission in order to create a new document stating goals and objectives so that the Conservation Commission's vision is clear to everyone.
4. River Float
 - a. The Canoe Paddle has been set for Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at 7 a.m. on that date will be the Bennington's Democratic Party road cleanup.
5. Hikes
 - a. Dates for the CMW hikes have been set for July 13th and August 3rd.
 - b. The Bruce Edes Forest Walk was set for Saturday, September 8, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.
6. Perambulation
 - a. The perambulation for the Bennington-Hancock line was tentatively set for Saturday, September 22, 2018.
 - b. Jon presented maps of the Frankestown line to be included in the file Joe MacGregor is creating.

7. Class 6 Roads
 - a. Jon presented a report from Bill Reid that included information on all of the Class 6 Roads in Bennington. Copies of the report will be made available to interested Commissioners for review.
 - b. Jon reported that there is a book titled *A Hard Road to Travel* includes laws and regulations applicable to Class 6 roads. Joe will see if he can get a copy of the book through the Library.
8. Trails on CM Land
 - a. Joe reported that Val had spoken with Ben Haubrich from Frankestown Land Trust regarding the trails on the CM Land. Mountain bike trails have been established without permission. Even though the property is open to the public, the Commissioners felt that it is appropriate to speak with the individuals involved in the mountain bike trails to notify them that the ownership of the property had changed and to please discuss further development of the property with the FLT. The Commissioners also discussed the possibility of placing signs on the property.
9. Signs at the bank of the Mill Pond
 - a. The Commissioners discussed placing signage on the bank of the Mill pond at the input area on Route 202 notifying the public to "Leave no Trace Behind".
10. Website
 - a. Michael Munhall will be working on the Conservation Commissioners public website over the next few months. He is looking for feedback regarding other Town websites that could be used as models, links that would be applicable, etc.
11. Other
 - a. Joe reported that individuals on the River Committee reported that their Town Conservation Commission review any applications or permits that abut the river. Bennington's Conservation Commission used to be informed of timber cuts and curb cuts. The Commission would like to be informed of these applications to review.
 - b. The Conservation Commission will not hold their July meeting. The next Conservation Commission meeting will be August 16, 2018.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Karen Belcher

Conservation Commission Recording Secretary