

Town of Bennington
Conservation Commissioners
Minutes of Meeting - November 15, 2018
Minutes Approved on-

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

Co-Chair Michael Munhall called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

1. Guest
 - a. Michael Munhall informed the Commissioners that he received an email from Kristie LaPlante this evening that she would not be able to attend tonight's meeting. She will try to attend the December meeting.
2. NRI Update
 - a. Michael Munhall informed the Commissioners that he had given the NRI PDF's to Kristie LaPlante a few weeks ago. At this time the NRI is not available in hard copy.
3. Warrant Articles
 - a. The Commissioners discussed proposing warrant articles for the collection of proceeds from the timber and gravel taxes. Jonathan Manley spoke with Antrim, they were looking further into their wording to see if they were able to put forth a warrant article that would allow the Commissioners to collect the tax yearly without having to place a warrant article each year. The Commissioners proposed several ideas for wording, such as if the warrant article either said a percentage to be collected each year, or said in going forward it would be collected annually unless rescinded by the Town body. The Commissioners will work on wording with Kristie LaPlante.
4. Minutes
 - a. Jonathan Manley made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 18, 2018 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Joseph MacGregor and all were in favor of accepting the minutes as written.
5. New Business
 - a. Jonathan Manley was approached by Rod Warner of Antrim regarding Bennington's interest in working with Antrim to establish a trail on the 25 acres that Antrim owns in Bennington. Joseph MacGregor made a motion to approach the Antrim Conservation Commission with Bennington Conservation Commissions interest that if Antrim were to move ahead with their plans to establish a trail, Bennington would support Antrim with trail maintenance. Thomas James seconded the motion and all were in favor.
 - b. Michael Munhall notified the Commissioners that Kristie LaPlante would like to have a tour of the Bennington-Greenfield line so that she can have first-person knowledge of the line as she has been approached by Greenfield regarding the town lines. The walk is scheduled for Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 9 am at

the Bennington Town Hall. Joseph MacGregor noted that there is a discrepancy beginning at the railroad tracks at the end of South Bennington Rd and continues toward the river.

- c. Michael Munhall notified the Commissioners that they had received a copy of a Wetlands Permit Application for a proposed pond excavation. It was noted that the applicant has received all necessary signatures from the State. Jonathan Manley asked if the application included a plan for possible flooding. Michael Munhall has signed the application.
- d. Michael Munhall informed the Commissioners that the Annual report will be due in January. The Commissioners discussed including in the report the perambulation Hancock-Bennington line and Greenfield-Bennington line, finalized NRI project, successful Earth Day project, sent two children to camp, River Float, booth at the Rhubarb Festival, the great turnout of the Annual Edes Forest Walk, coordinating the morning walks with Pierce School in which students remembered the Commissioners when they saw them again at the Pierce School Thanksgiving lunch, and the Samuelson property.
- e. Joseph MacGregor noted that the Bennington Recreation Department is putting together a float parade for Decemeber. Both Joseph and Jonathan offered their trailers if anyone was interested.
- f. Thomas James noted that a parent who attended the morning walks with Pierce School asked if there were picnic tables available for picnics in the Forest. It was noted that it would be nice to place a table at strategic locations overlooking the river. Although there was some concern of trash, the Commissioners thought they may place a picnic table on a trial basis. The Commissioners considered harvesting some old timber in the Forest to create a picnic table. It was suggested to approach the Boy Scouts as an Eagle project.
- g. The Commissioners discussed the chips that were placed at the VFW to help get rid of the knotweed. The Commissioners are very thankful for the three truckloads of chips that were provided by the company cutting trees in Town for an individual. When Joseph MacGregor sees the company again he will thank them for the chips and let them know that until spring comes there are enough chips at the VFW for now. The Commissioners are looking for the use of a tractor to spread the chips. Joseph MacGregor will approach Steve Willette and Rick Reed, Jonathan Manley will approach his son-in-law in regards to the use of their tractors. The Commissioners noted that the beaver living in the area is also eating the knotweed.

Joseph MacGregor made a motion to adjourn. Thomas James seconded the motion. As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Karen Belcher
Conservation Commissioner Recording Secretary