

Town of Bennington
Conservation Commissioners
Minutes of Meeting - December 20, 2018
Minutes Approved on-

Present: Mike Munhall, Jon Manley, Joe MacGregor, Gary MacKinnon, and Tom James

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

1. Minutes
 - a. Mike Munhall requested that members preferred nicknames are used in minutes. Jon Manley made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 15, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom James and all were in favor.
2. NRI Update
 - a. Mike Munhall notified the Commissioners that the NRI has been printed. All members were interested in having a personal copy.
3. Old Business
 - a. Warrant Articles
 - i. The Commissioners have not been able to make contact with Administrator Kristie LaPlante to meet on the warrant article wording. She was unable to meet again tonight, but hopes to make the January meeting. Mike Munhall will meet with Kristie before the next meeting as warrant article wording need to be turned in prior to the meeting in order to discuss the wording so that it can be a perpetual allocation and not need to be voted on annually. Gary MacKinnon asked if the January meeting would be a time to discuss long term goals with Kristie. Mike Munhall noted that it would also be a time to hear any ideas she may have regarding projects the Conservation Commissioners might focus on.
 - b. Perambulation
 - i. Joe MacGregor and Jon Manley met with Kristie LaPlante to drive/walk the Greenfield-Bennington line. Joe filled members in on the differences of where the boundary line is believed to be on South Bennington Road. Joe noted that there were a lot of trees down when they walked to the marker at the end of Dodge Road. There is about a half-acre that maps show differently if it is Bennington or Greenfield land. The Commissioners noted that the next time the water in the River is lowered, they should mark the markers that are located in the River.
 - c. Antrim Trail in Bennington
 - i. The Commissioners will reach out to the Antrim Conservation Commissioners regarding interest in Antrim's proposal to create a trail in the land where Antrim's town well is located. Jon Manley and Gary MacKinnon will reach out to Antrim Conservation regarding this project. Gary was very interested in this project as it is close to work that he was part of in his job on an island in Boston. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of involving the Boy Scouts or other organizations in cutting a trail and noting the plants growing there.
 - d. Edes Forest
 - i. Joe MacGregor will reach out to the Bennington-Antrim Boy Scout Cub Master regarding placing a picnic table area in Edes Forest. The

Commissioners discussed possible locations for a picnic area. They will walk the Forest to select a location.

- e. Annual Report
 - i. Mike Munhall has begun working on the Annual Report. He will send it out for feedback before sending it in.
 - f. Wood chips
 - i. The wood chips located at the VFW will be spread in the spring.
4. New Business
- a. FEMA
 - i. The Commissioners received a notice from FEMA that a meeting will be held in Peterborough. It was held on Dec. 12, 2018. Although the Commissioners did not have the notification in time to attend, there is a form in the notice that can be submitted regarding identifying emergency management for flooding in the Town. It is not known whether or not there is still an emergency management committee in town. Gary will pass this along to Kristie LaPlante to follow up on and to ask about the emergency management committee.
 - b. A manual was received from a mailing received by the Town Clerk's office regarding preventing the spread of Japanese Knotweed.
 - c. A notice was received from the Southwest Regional Planning Commission regarding a NH Planning and Land Use regulation manual. Joe MacGregor was a motion to allocate \$10 to purchase a copy of the manual. Jon Manley seconded the motion and all were in favor of purchasing a manual.
 - d. NHACC had a webinar yesterday that Mike Munhall listened to and took notes that he will share with the Commissioners. He will also forward the powerpoint that was shared. The Commissioners will place on January's agenda time to discuss and view the powerpoint and information from the webinar.
 - e. Jon Manley and Joe MacGregor will be bringing to the Conservation Commissioners an invoice to financially support the work of the River Committee. This invoice will be brought forth to the Selectmen.
 - f. Gary MacKinnon asked if there has ever been a study on the fish. The Papermill has done a study. Fish and Game may have more information regarding studies on any fish with disease. The heavy metals, chemicals, or solids from the Papermill goes into a lagoon.
 - g. Gary MacKinnon asked if someone monitors any state grants that may be available that could be applicable to the Conservation Commissioners. Gary noted that there are grants available from the US Forestry for tree replacement. Jon Manley noted that the trees in Bennington do seem to grow back quickly.
 - h. Jon Manley noted that at the River Committee it was noted that some towns are having lots of trouble with plastic in the river. He noted that they should approach the town businesses regarding a voluntary banning of plastic straws and bags. Joe noted that he received some information about a group that was able to procure a grant to produce recycled bags with informational pamphlets inside that were handed out in their town on election day.

Joseph MacGregor made a motion to adjourn. Jon Manley seconded the motion. As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Karen Belcher
Conservation Commissioner Recording Secretary