

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting- September 20, 2018

Minutes Approved on- October 18, 2018

Present: Michael Munhall, Jonathan Manley, Joseph MacGregor, and Valerie Germain

Co-Chair Michael Munhall called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

1. Camper's Report
  - a. Two thank you notes from Adeline Regis was shared with the Commissioners thanking them for the opportunity to attend camp at the Harris Center. She greatly enjoyed her time there.
2. Minutes
  - a. The minutes from the August 16, 2018 meeting were accepted with a minor amendment.
3. Old Business
  - a. 295 North Bennington Road-
    - i. Joseph MacGregor shared that he attended the Planning Board site walk at the property located at 295 North Bennington Road for a subdivision.
  - b. Edes Walk
    - i. The Commissioners reported that it was a good walk attended by several Commissioners and two families. Those who attended had a nice time. Joseph noted that he took pictures during the walk that will be available to view.
  - c. Samuels Property Dedication
    - i. Valerie reported that the dedication of the Samuels property took place on September 15, 2018. Shirley Samuels was able to attend in order to represent the family, she shared many memories of the Town with those in attendance. There were approximately 13 people in attendance.
  - d. NRI status
    - i. Jeff has emailed hoping to have everything finalized on the NRI during the first week of October.
4. New Business
  - a. 2019 Budget Proposal
    - i. The Commissioners discussed their budget proposal. The Commissioners discussed the need to add money for the following items
      1. website fees
      2. advertising events
      3. materials for marking plants in the Forest

4. increasing the education line in order to offer summer opportunities for students
    5. Earth Day education events planning to pay for presenters
  - ii. The Commissioners are asking for an increase of \$500 for the Education line and \$500 for the General Purpose/Miscellaneous line item.
- b. Community Service
  - i. The Richardson family approached Valerie Germain to inquire about opportunities for community service. The Commissioners discussed the possibilities of trash pickups, maintenance in the Forest, and inventorying plants in the Forest.
- c. School/Community Outreach Opportunities
  - i. Pierce School is working with the Harris Center. The school will have 4 sessions this fall, 2 the winter, and 4 this spring for an opportunity in an outside before school walking club in the Edes Forest. The School invited the Commissioners to join them on their walks.
  - ii. Valerie Germain would like to contact Victoria Burnham, art teacher at GBS, to create something with her students that relates to plants and animals specific to the Forest to be on display near the Forest.
  - iii. The Commissioners began discussing planning events around Earth Day education during the month of April. The Commissioners will reach out to the Harris Center and Mr. Morocco.
5. It is with regret that the Commissioners accepted John Baybutt's letter of resignation from the Board.
6. Valerie Germain will put together cards for John Baybutt, Shirley Samuels, and Frankestown Land Trust.
7. The Hancock-Bennington perambulation is set for October 6, 2018. Michael Munhall will reach out to the Hancock Town Hall to leave message of the perambulation for the Hancock Commissioners.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Karen Belcher  
Conservation Commissioner Recording Secretary