

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting- October 18, 2018

Minutes Approved on-

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

Co-Chair Michael Munhall called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

1. Minutes

- a. Jonathan Manley made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 20, 2018 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Joseph MacGregor and all were in favor of accepting the minutes as written.

2. Old Business

a. Budget

- i. The Commissioners heard a report from John Baybutt that the budget committee accepted the Conservation Commissioners budget.

b. NRI Update

- i. Jeff has emailed Valerie Germain that the cd of PDFs should be received in the mail in the next several days. Jeff reported that the contract was for PDF format only. The Commissioners will receive the files in PDF format to be printed out by the Commissioners.
- ii. Valerie Germain read the contract. It was noted that the contract states the deliverables of the NRI were final report, maps, and presentation in PDF format.
- iii. Once the Commissioners have received the NRI pdfs, the next step will be to create a conservation plan.

c. Walk in the Woods

- i. Mike Munhall, Valerie Germain, and Thomas James reported that Pierce School students have had the opportunity to participate in a Morning Walk in the Woods club in conjunction with the Harris Center. Mike and Thomas have been able to join the students in some of the walks.
- ii. The Commissioners thanked Mike Munhall for writing the article along with pictures that were featured in the Ledger-Transcript.
- iii. There is one more Walk in the Woods that is scheduled for next Thursday.

d. Perambulation

- i. Joseph MacGregor and Mike Munhall met with John Jordan of Hancock for the Bennington-Hancock perambulation. Several of the boundaries that

- have not been viewed before were located. As several areas were swampy and wet, the group could not easily access all the markers.
- ii. Mike Munhall spoke with Kristie LaPlante regarding if a report needed to be written to report the perambulation. Kristie was unaware of any reports ever being submitted.
  - iii. Kristie LaPlante approached Joseph MacGregor regarding the open discussion between Bennington and Greenfield about the town line as reports/maps differ. Joseph MacGregor stated he would be happy to show Kristie where the boundary markers are located. It was noted that Dennis McKenney was able to get GPS readings off the markers located in the river channel when the river was low.

e. Letters to Landowners

- i. The Commissioners discussed when land that would be advantageous for conservation, it would be beneficial for the Commissioners to reach out with a card. The Commissioners would like to make a goal for 2019 to reach out to landowners.

f. Warrant Articles

- i. Kristie LaPlante reached out to Valerie Germain regarding the Commissioners interest to place warrant articles for the collection of a percentage of timber and gravel tax to be placed in the Conservation account. Jonathan Manley will look into the wording the town of Antrim used in order to not have to place a warrant article yearly.

3. New Business

a. New Members

- i. The Commissioners discussed membership. The Commissioners look forward to Mr. McKinnon being back in the area and hope to see him again at meetings.
- ii. The Commissioners are looking for new members. It was noted that in the past, there was a Selectmen liaison. The Commissioners discussed contacting Kristie LaPlante to place a request in the newsletter that comes out with the tax bill regarding interest in membership.

Jonathan Manley was a motion to adjourn. Michael Munhall seconded the motion. As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Karen Belcher  
Conservation Commissioner Recording Secretary