

Town of Bennington  
Conservation Commission  
Minutes of the meeting- April 18, 2019  
Minutes accepted- May 16, 2019

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

Co-Chair Mike Munhall called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

1. Minutes
  - a. Jon Manley made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 21, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe MacGregor and all were in favor.
2. River Committee
  - a. Joe reported that the River Committee meeting was postponed to next Monday.
  - b. Mike reported that he spoke with Kristie LaPlantin regards to notifying the Commissioners of any projects that may impact the River. She stated that at this time there is nothing new for planned future river projects.
  - c. Joe notified the Commissioners that he had heard that there was a change in the number of days provided for feedback to be given from different boards.
3. Finances
  - a. Mike notified the Commissioners that the Conservation Commission Funds have been placed in the NH Public Deposit Investment Pool, with \$1,000 of the funds not invested.
4. Old Business
  - a. Camp Scholarships
    - i. Camp applications are due April 26, 2019.
    - ii. At this time, no applications have been received.
    - iii. Gary asked if there are no applicants, should it be opened to Antrim children? The Commissioners felt that if Antrim children were interested, they would discuss with Antrim Conservation Commission.
    - iv. Gary noted that in researching grants, he found that there could be opportunities to have a Forest Ranger from the State of NH to hold a program/discussion with children. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of pursuing this event, possibly at the beginning of September. Gary will follow up with the Forest Rangers.
  - b. Scouts
    - i. Joe reported that he and Mike attended the Boy Scout meeting and discussed possible projects such as plant identification placards, picnic tables, a kiosk at the entrance. There are several scouts who have not decided on projects, but are candidates for working on becoming Eagle scouts.
    - ii. Gary mentioned that other location for benches could be at Whittemore Beach or at the fishing site on Powder Mill Pond on Route 202.

c. Sign Installation

- i. Jon notified the Commissioners that he had heard that milfoil has been seen at Whittemore Lake. If the State is notified, they will test to see if there is milfoil. There is not a source of funding from the State to remove milfoil.
- ii. The signs will be installed to notify boaters of the importance to clean boats to reduce the spread of invasive water plants. Two signs will be posted at Whittemore Lake, one will be posted at Powder Mill Pond launch site, and the last to be posted at the Paper Mill launch site. The Commissioners will schedule a time to install the signs.

d. Earth Day

- i. Signage was provided to the Commissioners to advertise Bennington's Earth Day event on Saturday, May 4, 2019.
- ii. 50 bright yellow vests were purchased by the Conservation Commission to loan out during the Earth Day cleanup.
- iii. The Commissioners discussed printing smaller maps from the NRI as the current size would require large pieces of plexiglass to protect the maps.
- iv. The Commissioners will ask the Town Clerk's office and the Fire Department about borrowing griddles for cooking pancakes.
- v. The Paper Mill donated \$150 to help with the costs of the Earth Day event.
- vi. Tom and Joe have spoken to the Highway Department in regards to utilizing the truck to pick up the trash bags.
- vii. Mike will contact State Department of Transportation in regards to picking up the trash bags on the highway and about State signs notifying drivers that trash pick up is happening around Town. Tom will also check to see if the Town Highway has road signs.
- viii. Jon ordered T-shirts primarily for the Commissioners to wear. They will be forest green with yellow writing.
- ix. Jon will set up an invasive species display. He will also talk with the Paper Mill and the River Committee to see if they would be interested in setting up displays.
- x. Leslie MacGregor will be setting up a bookwalk in the Edes Forest.
- xi. Commissioners will meet at the VFW on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 8 a.m to prepare breakfast.
- xii. Tom will contact Rick Reed regarding use of his tractor in order to move the wood chips at the VFW.

e. New Business

- i. Jon notified the Commissioners that he has placed a call to Trail Division in regards to their signage on the Railroad bed down by the Antrim well stating that the trail is closed due to mud for all purposes until May 23, 2019.

- ii. Mike noted that there is no garbage can at the VFW. The Commissioners would like to place signage regarding carry-in, carry-out.
- iii. Joe proposed having a group work on cleaning up the gardens around Town during the Earth Day event.
- iv. Joe has spoken to Town Hall personnel in regards to the dead or diseased trees located at the corner of the Garage and at the VFW. Joe proposed to Dee French about replacing the trees. The Commissioners would research plants/trees and spearhead the project if approved.
- v. Mike reported that Kristie LaPlante approved 20 yards of soil for the gardens done over the next two years.
- vi. Joe provided the Commission with two set of maps provided by the Harris Center.
- vii. Tom reported that the Willette boys have been in the Forest raking and providing maintenance to the Forest trails.
- viii. Gary updated the Commissioners regarding information he found from the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, & Food grant program. He will follow up to find out more about the grant opportunity.

Jon Manley made a motion to adjourn. Joe MacGregor seconded the motion. As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Belcher  
Conservation Commissioner Recording Secretary