

Town of Bennington  
Conservation Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting- June 20, 2019  
Minutes accepted-

Present: Mike Munhall, Tom James, Joe MacGregor, Val Germain, and Jon Manley

Co-Chair Mike Munhall called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

1. Minutes
  - a. Joe MacGregor made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 16, 2019 meeting with amendments. The motion was seconded by Jon Manley and all were in favor of accepting the minutes with amendments.
2. Resignation
  - a. Mike Munhall shared with the Commissioners a letter of resignation from Karen Belcher as the recording secretary. The Commissioners accepted the resignation with regret.
3. Membership
  - a. Mike Munhall shared with the Commissioners that Steve Willette is interested in becoming a member of the Conservation Commission. A motion was made by Mike Munhall to appoint Steve Willette and seconded by Jon Manley. All members were in favor. The Commissioners will contact the Selectmen regarding appointing Steve Willette as a member of the Conservation Commission.
4. Bruce Edes Projects
  - a. Danny Veverka is interested in working on his Boy Scout Eagle project that will be tied to the Bruce Edes Forest. He has already met with several Commissioners and will meet with the Commission formally regarding his project.
  - b. Victoria Burnham, Great Brook School art teacher, has been in contact with a Conservation Commission regarding a school project tied to the Bruce Edes Forest.
5. River Committee
  - a. Jon Manley reported that the River Committee discussed projects that may impact the River at their last meeting. Jon Manley let members of the River Committee know about the Conservation Commission river float. A sub-committee of the River Committee has been created focusing on plastics. Jon Manley shared with the Committee of the Commissioners interest to have a presentation on plastics, possibly during the Town Community Supper.
  - b. Joe Manley would like to promote reducing the amount of plastics utilized by the Town store and Town restaurants. He personally thanked the food truck in Town for their use of alternatives to plastic. Val Germain shared that the NHACC has

downloadable information in their June newsletter regarding plastics. The Commissioners are interested in hosting a Community Supper in conjunction with the GEP Library hosting a presentation on plastics.

- c. Joe MacGregor reported that the Town of Henniker has been working on an azalea project planting azaleas.
- d. Old Business
  - i. Bennington Garage Corner Tree
    - 1. Joe MacGregor reported that he met with several individuals and Brent Paradis regarding the tree on the corner of the Garage. The tree will be removed and the area excavated. Brent Paradis recommended planting a maple tree, either red or sugar. Joe MacGregor met with the Selectmen to share the recommendation and a maple tree purchase was authorized.
    - 2. The elm on the other side of the Garage has a large cluster of aphids. Joe MacGregor noted that the trees at the Town Hall also have curling leaves. Brent Paradis recommended looking into a licensed sprayer to take care of the aphids.
  - ii. Fire Department maple tree replacement
    - 1. Mike Munhall reported he spoke with Kristie LaPlante regarding the maple trees at the Fire Department. Kristie LaPlante asked for a recommendation for replacing the maple trees. The Commissioners recommended replacing the maple trees with lilacs.
  - iii. NRI
    - 1. The Commissioners discussed creating a presentation to formally present the NRI to the Selectmen and Planning Board for acceptance.
    - 2. The Commissioner next step with the NRI is creating a conservation plan.
- e. New Business
  - i. River Float
    - 1. The River Float is scheduled for Saturday, June 29, 2019 at 9 a.m. An invitation was extended to the River Committee and the surrounding community.
  - ii. Trees in the River
    - 1. Mike Munhall noted that several large trees are in the River near the Paper Mill. Joe MacGregor has asked for clarification from DES regarding trees that have fallen into the river. Approval has been granted to cut and remove these trees.
  - iii. Grant Work
    - 1. Gary MacKinnon has been working with Cory Keefe from the NH Urban Community Forest Program and they have donated a tree to the Town of Bennington. Several locations were discussed for

placement of the tree. The Conservation Commissioners selected the VFW as the location for the tree to be planted.

iv. Gazebo Brick

1. Mike Munhall made a motion that the Conservation Commission purchase a brick for the gazebo walkway. Joe MacGregor seconded the motion and all were in favor.

v. Goals for 2019-2020

1. Mike Munhall shared with the Commissioners a calendar outlining agenda items for each month for review. The Commissioners made the following changes:
  - a. Deleted annual meeting goals from April
  - b. Deleted review summer needs of Lake Whittemore from May
  - c. Deleted Samuel's hike from August
  - d. Moved Perambulation from April to October. The Commissioners set the perambulation of the Bennington/Deering line for this year
  - e. Added annual meeting for goals planning to October
  - f. Deleted submission of warrant articles for Gravel and Timber taxes from October
2. Val Germain recommended the Commissioners host a hike of the Samuel's property during the summer. A tentative date of July 27, 2019 was set for the hike.
3. The Commissioners also discussed evaluating the property between the cemeteries, improving the VFW property, and reaching out to land owners.
4. The Commissioners will draft a letter to reach out to land owners.

Val Germain made a motion to adjourn. Jon Manley seconded the motion. As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Belcher  
Conservation Commissioner Recording Secretary