

Town of Bennington
Conservation Commissioners
Minutes of Meeting - February 21, 2019
Minutes Approved on- March 21, 2019

Present: Mike Munhall, Joe MacGregor, Tom James, and Gary MacKinnon
Guest: Jeff Rose

Co-Chair Mike Munhall called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

1. Gary MacKinnon presented to the Commissioners two signs provided by the State of New Hampshire for free for "Clean Boats, Clean Water". Signs are to be placed at Whittemore Beach and Powder Mill Pond. An order will be placed for a third sign.
2. Minutes
 - a. Joe MacGregor made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 17, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom James and all were in favor.
3. Reports
 - a. Joe MacGregor reported that he will be contacting the Boy Scouts in regards to the picnic tables for Edes Forest.
 - b. Mike Munhall reported that he attended the River Committee with Joe MacGregor and Jon Manley. The River Committee reviews projects that may have an impact on the River. A majority of the projects are not in Bennington. When projects come up, the River Committee addresses members from that specific town the project is planned for to see if their Conservation Commission have reviewed the plan.
4. Old Business
 - a. Appointment of Conservation Commission
 - i. Mike Munhall made a motion to recommend appointing Gary MacKinnon as a member of the Conservation Commission. Tom James seconded the motion and all were in favor. The Conservation Commission will forward this recommendation to the Selectmen for approval.
 - b. 2019 Calendar
 - i. The Conservation Commission reviewed the 2019 Conservation Commission Calendar. Joe MacGregor will notify the Conservation Commission when the River Committee will have their presentation by a guest speaker on the aquatic invasive species.
 - ii. It was noted that the Town wide Earth Day Event will be held on May 4, 2019 this year.
 - iii. The Conservation Commissioners moved the Bruce Edes Forest walk to September 8, 2019. It was suggested to have a second walk at the height of the fall foliage season.

- iv. Kristie LaPlante recommended at the last meeting holding a second roadside cleanup in the fall.
 - c. Joe MacGregor reported that Leslie from the GEP Dodge Library has previously put together a hike mission that he would like to show the Commissioners. The hike mission and the book walks have been enjoyed by many. The Commissioners thought ideas like these may be a good way to interact the students of Pierce School with the Edes Forest.
 - d. Biosafe Ware
 - i. Joe MacGregor reported that he has done some research in regards to biosafe ware. In order for the material to biodegrade, it must go through an industrial process to break down. At this time the Commissioners do not think that it is appropriate to approach the town restaurants. The Commissioners will still work towards educating the public.
 - e. North Bennington Road
 - i. Mike Munhall has not heard whether Kristie LaPlante had forwarded the Conservation Commissioners concern about the condition of a property on North Bennington Road to the Selectmen. Jeff Rose will follow up with the Selectmen. Joe MacGregor who walked the area with Jeff Rose reported to the Commissioners about what he saw for build up of trash littering the property.
 - f. Joe MacGregor reported that he has come across a copy of a map from a 1904 survey that came from Bill Reid that shows the Bennington-Greenfield line. There is a notation on the map that provides the coordinates that may give the Commissioners the location of the marker that is located in the River. Jon Manley believes that the marker is made of marble.
- 5. New Business
 - a. Campership Applications
 - i. Mike Munhall will put an advertisement in the newspaper for the Harris Center camp opportunity.
 - ii. Gary MacKinnon reported that there is a possible opportunity for grant money from the USDA for the Tree Canopy Grant Program. It may make it possible to send more students to camp. Gary MacKinnon will gather more information about this to bring to the Commissioners.
 - b. Earth Day
 - i. Mike Munhall has drafted a letter to Monadnock Paper Mill asking for funding to help with Earth Day Event expenses.
 - ii. The Commissioners discussed an educational opportunity in addition to the roadside clean-up.
 - iii. The Commissioners discussed possibilities for Town gardens. It was suggested to plant edibles on Town owned properties. Tom James noted that the Recreation Department is going to be working with Pierce School's Cornucopia program to put in a rhubarb bed.
 - c. Fundraiser

- i. Kristie LaPlante had forwarded to Mike Munhall a fundraising opportunity for compost bins. Joe MacGregor reported that the Commission had done this fundraiser years ago. Orders are due no later than April 22, 2019. The Commissioners are going to pass on this fundraiser.

Mike Munhall made a motion to adjourn. Joe MacGregor seconded the motion. As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Karen Belcher
Conservation Commissioner Recording Secretary