



Bennington Conservation Commission

November 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Zoom Meeting Minutes

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76815643329?pwd=Uksxd09IK2x6cUcrN1ZBbFIHVXJxQT09>

Meeting ID: 768 1564 3329

Passcode: 8j5udb

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 6:30 Pm.

Present: Mike Munhall, Joe MacGregor, Stephen Willette, John Manley.

Absent: Tom James, Gary MacKinnon

Guest: Danny Veverka

Minutes:

Motion by Mike Munhall to accept the minutes of the October 15, 2020 meeting as written.

Second by Steve Willette. All in favor. Minutes were accepted.

Reports:

- **Kiosk-** Dan Veverka reported on the kiosk project. He stated the kiosk is complete, locks, bolts are installed, the only thing left are two locks to keep it safe. It is useable. He discussed the possibility of installing a handle to remove the board. The kiosk looks nice, the handle would be bulky, Danny was looking for the Commission's thoughts. Discussion followed.

Motion by Joe McGregor not to install the handle, but to reconsider later if needed. 2nd by Steve Willette. All in favor. Motion passed

Lettering for the Kiosk was discussed. No final decision.

Danny discussed the Kiosk project has taken more time and funding than originally anticipated and asked if the plant identification and plackets can be taken on by another Eagle Scout or if the Commission would approve his dad and/or sisters doing that part of the project.

A new person to make the signs, identifying plants is needed at this time.

Motion by Mike Munhall that the kiosk was a great project, and Dan did a great job on the project and to modify the project, consider the Kiosk complete at this time, the Board will agree to eliminate the portion of the project of plant identification. Seconded by Joe MacGregor. Voted affirmative. Motion Passed.

Danny thanked everyone for their support and further stated they were all great to work with.

Mike will get a letter to Dan of the amendment of the project. They would also like a photo of Dan near the Kiosk for some publicity.

- **River Committee-** John Manly reported he had a short meeting on Monday with the River Committee. Discussed the Penacook Dam and the process of the dam in Bennington was discussed.

Town Administrator, Kristie LaPlante had reported that the dues have been paid, however it appears that last years dues were paid in January of 2020 and that this years dues of \$200.00 is still owed. Mike will get the 2020 invoice emailed to Kristie for payment.

Old Business – Mike Munhall discussed with the Kiosk now done, what should be put on the front line.

- **New Projects -**

Suggestions were: A map of the Forest, Regulations (i.e. Pets on lease, carry in/carry out, Tick Warnings, Seasonal Signage, NO MV except snowmobiles.

A hiking challenge was discussed. Steve Willette offered to come up with a preliminary list.

Joe McGregor suggested a small box for maps. Discussion regarding maps followed.

John Manley discussed including the Bruce Edes photo and the written biography be on the trail map, all agreed this would be a good idea.

- **Timber/Gravel Tax** – Discussion followed regarding the Timber/Gravel Tax for 2021. Selectmen had asked if 100% could remain in the General Fund for 2020, Conservation Commission agreed to this. The Commission will ask for a warrant for the transfer of 100% of the Timber/Gravel Tax to the 2021 budget and going forward again.

- **Membership** – It was discussed that new membership is needed. One to replace Val as well as a new member would be good. Suggestions were discussed.

New Business –

- **Leaf Blower** - Joe McGregor reported the Conservation Commission is currently the owner of a 600 power Stihl Leaf Blower. This was a very generous donation from an anonymous donor. It was used last Sunday to clear trails and works wonderfully. Discussion followed regarding a leaf blower and concern for insects/bugs habitat being disturbed vs. raking., erosion etc. It being the first time using this leaf blower it was determined it will be less invasive in the future.

This donation will leave \$600.00 in the budget to be used by year end. Discussion followed as to how to spend the funds.

- **Year End Budget** - Joe MacGregor will purchase saw blades and animal waste bags to have available.

John Manley will research and purchase supplies for a boardwalk, it will be installed in the area of the trail which could use an above ground walkway to keep it safe for walkers. Joe MacGregor will call Eversource and ask about the poles being replaced and if Eversource would donate them to the ConCom for this use.

Steve Willette will research Leopold benches and price out lumber to build two benches.

- **Holiday Parade**- The Parade is scheduled for December 6, discussion followed. Due to Covid-19 the ConCom does not think this is a good year to participate.
- **Bridge** –The hopes for opening the railroad tresle was discussed, as well as allowing for a rail trail to become a reality from Bennington to Peterborough. This will be a great asset to the community. It is costly to accomplish this task. John Manley indicated he would research options for grants etc.

The next ConCom meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, at 6:30 pm.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Davidson, Recording Secretary