



Bennington Conservation Commission

December 17, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Zoom Meeting Minutes

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/93726982775>

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 6:37 Pm.

Present: Mike Munhall, Joe MacGregor, Tom James, John Manley.

Absent: Stephen Willette, Gary MacKinnon

Guest: Zach Allen

Minutes:

Motion by Joe MacGregor to accept the minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting as written. Second by John Manley. All in favor. Minutes were accepted.

Reports:

- **Eagle Scout Project Update** Given by Mike Munhall and Joe MacGregor, Danny Veverka will need to complete his Eagle Project as planned with some modification of the plant identification: painting numbered tags to correspond with features throughout the Forest.
- **River Committee** – 2021 dues. River Meeting will be before the next ConCom meeting so a report will be available for the Commission.

Old Business:

- **Benches** - Steve Willette quickly got the project of new Leopold benches for the Forest done. He made four, one is at the cross trails in the middle (replacing two old ones), one on the Blue Trail overlooking the rapids, one on the hill above the tracks looking at the village, and the final one by the river looking across to the paper mill.
- **New Forest Map** – As discussed last month a new map is necessary to include changes in the Forest and to add Danny's plant identification. We also need a photo of Bruce Edes to include with his biography. John Manley indicated he has a nice pencil drawing of Bruce, he will get a copy made to be used with the biography.

- **Year End Purchases** – Weed whacker Blades and Poop Bag dispenser will be purchased.

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

New Business –

- **2020 Annual Report** – items to mention
 - Service of Val Germain
 - Work with Mike Gagnon, Hillsborough County Forester
 - Disappointment of the depot not being painted & closed
 - Removal of fallen trees in the river
 - Impact of the Pandemic – No Earth Day Clean up, Sign Contest, Canoe Paddle cancelled. No participation in Christmas Parade.
 - Kiosk
 - Benches
 - Donation of the leaf blower
- **Calendar for 2021** – The calendar of meetings, events and activities of the Commission for 2021 was reviewed and approved.
- **Submission of Timber & Gravel Tax Warrant Article** – There was agreement that the Commission should ask for 100% of the taxes for 2021. We need to correspond with Kristie LaPlante about the wording for the warrant for 100% distribution.
- **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.
- John Manley discussed a show on Chronicle about Geo-cache, will look into doing this at the Bruce Edes Forest.
- Story walks set up by the Dodge Library in the Forest were discussed and appreciated.
- Membership:
 - Zach Allen expressed interest in becoming a member of the Commission. His name will be submitted to the Selectmen for approval.
 - Discussion followed about Bell Ledges, John Manley offered to share the information he has and a walk may be offered later in 2021. It was also discussed that the Commission should investigate an appropriate canoe pullout spot by the steel bridge near the Deering town line.

- The Commission needs to contact the NH Forest Service regarding a new tree for the new gazebo area. We should contact Scott Liljeberg about any plans he might have for the area.
- Tom James discussed the parade, it was fun, nice to see the kids.

The next ConCom meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, at 6:30 pm.

With no further business, motion by Mike to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM. Seconded by Tom James.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Davidson, Recording Secretary