



Bennington Conservation Commission

February 18, 2021 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

Mike Munhall called the meeting to order via Zoom at 6:30 PM.

Present: Mike Munhall, Joe MacGregor, Stephen Willette, Jon Manley, Tom James, Zach Allen.

Absent: Gary MacKinnon

Guest: Danny Veverka

Minutes:

Motion by John Manley to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting as written. Second by Joe MacGregor. All in favor. Minutes were accepted.

Other Matters:

- Members all congratulated Danny Veverka on his acceptance to Northern Michigan. He will be studying Mechanical Engineering.
- Legislation – Members discussed the House Bills that are before legislation that may be of interest. Joe, John & Steve are on legislature. This will be discussed in depth further on in the agenda.

Reports:

- Dan Veverka asked the Conservation Commission to select 15 flora to put on a brochure to be kept at the kiosk and to further engrave the flora names on placards for identification. A list of possible items for identification was provided for review. Discussion followed. Motion by Mike Munhall to have all the flora -trees, with the

exception of the White Birch, to have identification placards. Seconded by Joe MacGregor. All in favor. Motion passed.

- Dan further reported he has shown Mike & Joe the signage he has so far. Engraving went well, the list of flora will be on the new brochure. A new person to make the signs, identifying plants is needed at this time.
- Discussion followed as to each member's preference. Discussion as to reimbursing Dan for the stencil kit. Dan indicated he would donate the stencils to the ConCom to use the kit anytime.
- There is a full-size map to be installed for the Kiosk. Dan will get a list to Mike of everyone who donated for the Kiosk project (i.e. time, money, tangible items etc.) The ConCom will place recognition in the newsletter, website and likely at the Kiosk.

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

River Committee:

- Jon Manley reported the River Committee will review the existing River Management plan. He would appreciate the ConCom giving input as to what they feel is important. There is a plan on file.
- Jon discussed a project he would like to put together with regards to the Contoocook River Puzzle that he has in his possession. This was originated by ConVal students through the Harris Center. He indicated each town is graphically recalculated, he thinks it would be fun to put together. ConVal does want to use it at some point, Manley is the keeper of the puzzle. A possibility could be putting it together for the Rhubarb Festival. Each town is a separate piece. John will remain the keeper of the puzzle.

Membership:

- A Town resident has expressed an interest in becoming a member, Mike indicated no communication has been returned from her yet.
- Gary Mackinnon is becoming an alternate.

Old Business:

- Camperships to Harris Center – There are two spots reserved in the Rovers program for grades 4-6, July 5-9, 2021. There will be competition for one of the spots, as last year's winner is still eligible.

New Business:

- **Forest** - As previously mentioned, an updated map has been posted on the kiosk. Phil Germain was kind enough to get it printed.
- **Earth Day Cleanup** – Discussion followed regarding Earth Day. It is currently scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2021 9AM to Noon. Zach Allen will go to Cosco and obtain everything needed to prepare “kits” for everyone who participates. Steve Willette discussed registering in person, he will donate his tent. Joe McGregor will reach out to Hancock & Greenfield for signs, he will further reach out to the town about picking up bags. Discussion of the Mill participating followed. Flyers will be ready and provided to the school before May 1, 2021.
- **Sign Competition** – As the environmental yard signs were well received last spring, the ConCom is going to again provide this as a means for town youngsters to have a visible part in conservation activity. Discussion followed, the signs will be ready by May 1, the school will be provided flyers for children to participate. Prizes were discussed. No decision on prizes was made.
- **Daisy Flowers** – Zach Allen presented a service project for the Daisy Girl Scout troop who are interesting in a beautification of Bennington project. They would like to plant flowers and care for them during the summer months. Locations discussed were Bruce Edes stone, the Gazebo, the fire house triangle where the flagpole is located. Motion by Joe MacGregor to allow the Daisy’s to go forward, begin site 1, (at the Edes Rock and the Triangle by the Fire Station). Mike Munhall discussed the soil at the rock will need improvements. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Legislative News was discussed in more detail and which HB are going to be addressed. The ConCom is in supportive of all the bills that NHACC stand with and will also support the same bills. Mike will draft a letter of support specifically addressing HB 426, a letter to the Chairman of the Committee of Resource and Economic Development, copied directly to the chair of the committee of NHACC.

GOALS FOR 2021:

- The ConCom will continue to work to get the Board of Selectmen to commit to getting the depot restored and functional.
- Continue to work on finding uses for the Old Stagecoach & Durgin Road
- Pursue grants to fund projects
- Tally town & current use properties to see what can be done to make them accessible to the public
- Maintain what we currently have
- Perambulate the Deering town line.
- Work to get the trestle opened and explore a bike trail.

John Manley discussed a vaccine list. If anyone wants to get onto the list, contact John and he can provide more information.

The next ConCom meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18, at 6:30 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Davidson, Recording Secretary