



Bennington Conservation Commission
January 19, 2023 6:30 PM at the Depot

Minutes

Call to Order 6:30 PM

Attendance -Present: Zach Allen, Tom James, Pat Long, Joe MacGregor, Jon Manley, Mike Munhall, Steve Willette. Absent: Christina Hahn

Gary McKinnon update: Gary is working on the South Shore of Massachusetts and is stepping away as alternate on the Commission for now.

Minutes from December 2022 - Unanimously approved

Mail - an email was received inviting people to the Sea Grant Research Symposium on Wednesday February 1 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM on the UNH Durham Campus. Lunch is provided. The Symposium is free. Register at: <https://seagrants.unh.edu/research/research-symposium>

Reports:

- River Committee: Jon Manley, Joe MacGregor

It was brought up that a property in Bennington on the Contoocook Lot 7-93 has applied for a variance in the housing to a permanent structure. The state has given permission for the septic change. The town building inspector has visited the lot but town hall has only just gotten the application. Conservation hasn't been informed of the application at all. Tom James will find out what the facts of the situation are.

- Town Hall News: Tom James

Tom is promoting the continued renovation of the Depot to completion. He requested that Deb Davidson get a copy of the previous plans for renovation.

- NHACC Annual Meeting: Pat Long

Pat found the meeting valuable. She attended sessions on Bees and Pollinators, and Climate Change... She brought back information on the sessions. She encouraged other members to go next November.

Old Business:

- Review of the “Current Use” map tally

A map of all tallied Current Use properties was distributed. Visually it looks like about 90% of town properties are categorized as Current Use. A discussion of what to do with this information was had. Should we create or ask land owners if we could establish trails over contiguous land? What are the requirements, uses, limitations if current use land? Joe and Pat will do some investigation into the rules and regulations of current use properties.

- Rockwell Property Pollinator Garden - Pat Long and Tom James have had some discussions about the property. A map of the land will be obtained from town hall. *90% of Monarchs have died off in the last 20 years.*

- Community Supper February 9 at 5:30

A planning session was held regarding the supper. Advertising: Road Sign, Facebook, and Ledger Transcript

Menu specifics

Sausages - cut and baked at Mike’s and brought to Pierce School

Condiments

Sauerkraut, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, dessert, pretzels, rye bread, coffee and kid beverages

Take out will be in paper/cardboard containers.

Entertainment: Tom will see if he can find a group to perform, otherwise we will use canned music.

- Budget 2023

Labor	\$400
Fica	\$31
Dues/Subscriptions	\$500
Office Supplies	\$50
Education	\$500
General	<u>\$633</u>
Total	\$2114

- Conservation Fund

		Balance
12/09 Deposit	8,690.50	81,619.78
12/11 Interest Deposit	2.83	81,622.61

New Business

- February 16 Meeting - Joe will be chair pro tempore, he will be assisted by Jon.
- Speakers -
UNH Cooperative Extension Speakers and others. We need to find resources before the February meeting to make some decisions about speakers and programs for this year.
- Gravel - Joe brought up his concern about whether the town has a reclamation plan for the gravel pit at the landfill. Tritown was created years ago so that Bennington, Antrim and Frankestown could use gravel from that pit. When it is completed, what happens to that land? Who monitors that removal of the gravel: weighed? Yards? Tax?
 - Tom James will find out details for the operation of the pit.
- Zach Allen mentioned that he will be working with Val Germain's 4th grade class in their "trout program." The students are raising brook trout in the classroom and will at some point this spring release them. A brief discussion of the best site for release was held. Possibly a pond or a lake rather than the river. Zach will recruit students to help him gather river data.

GOALS FOR 2023

- Continuing to work to get the Board of Selectmen to commit to getting the depot restored and functional.
- Finish the website and launch it. Include maps, minutes, trail maps, resources...
- Hold public educational events with speakers addressing environmental topics.
- Continued stewardship of the Forest with maintenance of trails and bridges and new signage.
- Continue to provide leadership in making the town cleaner and more environmentally proactive.
- Perambulate Greenfield townline and finish Deering townline.
- Encourage the town to use environmental "best practices" for the operation of town buildings and activities. Ie: net metering, energy audit of town buildings.

Adjournment at 8:03 PM

Next Meeting February 16 at 6:30 PM

Mike Munhall, recorder