



Bennington Conservation Commission

March 16, 2023 6:30PM

Minutes

Call to order 6:32 by Mike Munhall

Attendance:

Present: Zach Allen, Steve Willette, Jon Manley, Joe MacGregor, Mike Munhall.

Absent: Pat Long, Tom James, Christina Hahn

Minutes: February 16, 2023 Minutes Zach moved their approval, Steve seconded: unanimous approval

Mail: MidSummer's Eve...see new business

Reports

River Committee - interest in the water sampling that Zach Allen will be teaching to Pierce School 4th graders.

Old Business

- Gravel Pit - Tom James - report in future meeting
- Town Map Colors for types of land - We will contact Southwest Regional about getting a large map of Bennington to label lots that are in current use with the type of current use permits they were given. FOLLOW UP: map has been printed.
- Bennington Trail parking - Rick Edmunds has asked that we provide a parking area for the trailhead so that Mountain Road isn't blocked with hiker cars. Apparently there is land closeby that is owned by the town. We will look into developing that into parking for hikers. Rick has offered to assist with the preparation of the lot.
- Monarch waystations Rockwell property and Bible Hill/Antrim Road triangle improvement. At the April BCC meeting we will take a quick field trip to these two properties to get an idea of what is necessary to develop them as butterfly waystations. There was a discussion of not overdoing it with milkweed particularly at the Bible Hill/Antrim Road triangle. While milkweed helps monarchs, it isn't terribly attractive. There are other flowers that can be used

instead. It was suggested that we use planters in the triangle that can be removed during the winter to avoid being covered in sand. It was agreed that the trees in the triangle need to be pruned and/or replaced. Speak with the O'Hara's about plans.

- Speakers - Jon Manley will do more work getting lists of speakers from his various contacts. Leslie MacGregor has a list of previous speakers and organizations with speakers that we should tap into. Bears were a suggested topic.
- Outreach: Zach Allen will be working with Val Germain's 4th graders on water testing in late March/early April.

New Business

- Sign Competition - it was unanimous that we should hold an Earth Day sign competition again and announce the winner at Earth Day. Mike will make a flyer to be approved by ConVal. The theme will be "the river runs through it" to emphasize the most prominent feature in town, our Contoocook River. The posters can feature fishing, canoeing, water testing, water pollution, litter, plastic, fish, birds, paper mill... Val Germain will be the contact at Pierce for the contest. Entries are due Friday April 7. We will need to decide on the winner by special meeting or online so the sign can be printed by April 22.
- Earth Day Cleanup Plans - APRIL 22, 9:00AM
 - Depot Scheduled as headquarters
 - Promotional signage and publicity SEEDS from UNH Cooperative Extension to be given out at the Transfer Station
 - We will serve ***breakfast*** again - Joe has the waffle irons, Steve will do fruit salad, Jon will do coffee, Mike will do a letter to Richard Verny, Zach will get granola bars.
 - Displays - Library and NRI
 - Sign-in and assignments
 - Bag supply, gloves, vests
 - Roving truck - Joe and Steve
 - Bag Collection and Transfer to Dump
- Perambulate Greenfield line is planned for April 29, weather allowing.
- Recyclable cutlery - Mike reported that during his recent trip to Europe he noticed that very few restaurants use plastic cutlery. He got in touch with a

company that makes wooden cutlery hoping that the commission can promote the use of non-plastic. They are sending a sample of their products.

- We have been contacted by Bethany Craig to participate in the MidSummer Eve event at the gazebo on Friday, June 23. We said last year that we would sell hotdogs in 2023. It was agreed by the group that we would do it. FOLLOWUP- We have sent the application to Bethany and requested electricity which has been granted.

GOALS FOR 2023

- Continuing 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 town line and finish Deering town line.
- Encourage the town to use environmental “best practices” for the operation of town buildings and activities. ie: net metering, energy audit of town buildings.

Meeting adjourned 8:10PM

Mike Munhall, recorder