



**Bennington Conservation Commission
March 17, 2021 APPROVED**

Held at the Depot Called to Order at 6:32PM

Minutes

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

Mail - None

Reports

- River Committee - "Hillsboro Lives" will display the Contoocook River Watershed diorama this summer. Bennington's maps will be displayed, too.
 - South Bennington Road will be closed for about 3 months this summer to rebuild the bridge.
- Selectmen - The Commissioners congratulated Tom James on being elected selectman on March 8. He will remain an ex officio member of the Commission. He will have a spot on the monthly agenda to share information from the Board.

Old Business

- Sweatshirts - all handed out two left...one was taken by a member
- Warrants - 75% Timber and gravel tax distribution passed the Town vote March 8. Warrants 18 and 19 Setting up a committee to discuss the future distributions also passed and we will let the selectmen take the lead on this. It was brought up that the town failed to collect any taxes from either timber or gravel merchants in 2021. This will be taken up with Town Hall.
- Budget Passed
 - 2022 Conservation Commission Budget (as of March 17, 2022)

01 4611 1 119 CC Labor/Secretary	200.
01 4611 1 220 CC Fica/Medicare	31.
01 4611 1 310 CC Dues/Subscriptions	500.
01 4611 1 601 CC Office Supplies	50.
01 4619 1 320 CC Education	800.
01 4619 1 800 CC Gen. Purpose/Misc.	533.
Total - Conservation Commission	2114.

- A discussion followed about the use of the \$800 Education line item.
MOTION: By Zach Allen, The Commission should take a one year hiatus from sending two youngsters to the Harris Centre Summer Camp and look for alternative opportunity/s that will enhance the environmental experience of a larger group of Bennington youngsters. Seconded by Christina Hahn.
 - There are several alternative opportunities: Harris Center funding for work with Pierce School. Marine Docent from UNH, Squam Lake membership passes... Members will investigate options and report back at the April meeting.
 - Motion PASSED 7-1
- Master Plan -
 - Zach Allen - Water Quality testing will restart in May and send the readings to the state.
 - Jon Manley - RR Trestle - Peter Leachman gave Jon the name of the guy who made a bid on repairing the trestle. Called but no return. The Head of the Trail Bureau contacted, no return. It takes 3 years of no use for a line to be declared "abandoned." Questions:
 - Who declared a rail line "abandoned"?
 - Is there a "redline" deadline pressuring any of the parties?
 - Is it possible to preserve the Right Of Way?...
- Monarch Waystations - no report
- Little Library - waiting for thawed ground.

New Business

- Earth Day - MOTION: By Joe MacGregor Earth Day Clean up will be Saturday, May 7, centered around the Depot, snacks will be distributed in place of breakfast, and it will be promoted at the Dump for the two weeks prior to May 7 with the distribution of flyers to remind residents to attend. Seconded by Jon Manley. PASSED 8-0
 - Town groups and departments will be contacted to participate: Fire Department, Sportsman's Club, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts,...
 - Joe MacGregor will contact the state for the use of road signs.
 - A discussion about how to promote the day was held. Ideas: Hand out wildflower seeds or milkweed pods, advertise at the dump two weeks prior.
 - Blue Bags have been ordered for pickup on April 20
- Factory Village Sign - Jon Manley is working on moving the sign from US202 to the Depot parking area. He is in the process of contacting the Historical Society for their approval, the state has approved.
- Girl Scouts and Gardens - Colleen Allen has asked for permission to have the Girl Scouts annually plant a garden in front of the Depot around the Rock. Permission granted.
- Steve Willette mentioned that the Town of Weare is going to be celebrating the "Pine Tree Riot" In 1772 the people of Weare stood up to King George over the

appropriation of all pines in town with a diameter of greater than 12 inches. The town is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the event Saturday April 9 at 9AM
www.PineTreeRiot250.com

Membership

(all three year terms are up for reappointment in October of the year)

Steve Willette 2022

Mike Munhall 2022

Joe MacGregor 2023

Jon Manley 2023

Zach Allen 2024

Pat Long 2024

Christina Hahn 2025

Tom James *Ex officio*

Gary McKinnon *Alternate*

Adjournment: 7:55 on a motion by Joe MacGregor

Recorded by: Mike Munhall