



Bennington Conservation Commission
May 19, 2022 6:30 PM at the Depot

Minutes APPROVED 6/16/22

Meeting called to order at 6:30

In Attendance: Zach Allen, Tom James, Mike Munhall, Jon Manley, Steve Willette

Minutes of April 2022 approved

Mail - None

Reports/Announcements

- River Committee - South Bennington Road new bridge repair on hold due to a rare turtle nesting. Nonetheless the bridge will be completed by the end of September. Hillsboro 250th Anniversary will use the Contoocook diorama that Jon has.
- Items from NHACC newsletter
 - Conservation Easement Monitoring Tom James will get a list of town easements so we can monitor them.
- Communication from town hall: intents...
 - Two Intents to cut - 19 Gillis Hill and Pierce Hill Road
 - It was brought up that there is concern that many recent cuts have been clear cuts. It was suggested that the BCC obtain a brochure of the Best Practices of Tree Cutting and send it to all town property owners in an effort to make them all aware of other options for harvesting wood. Mike Gagnon will be contacted.
 - There was also concern raised about wood operations filling in wetlands with their work. DES will be contacted to find out the process to check about violations.
 - Bruce Edes Monument shrub. The selectmen would like us to find and purchase a new Bridal Wreath Spirea to replace the one removed during the construction of the helipad in front of the depot.

Old business

- Selection of Sign winner - Signs printed and displayed, ice cream gift certificates distributed.
- Master Plan updates - Zach Allen reported that he will begin water testing next week. This is a monthly test done in four locations: North Bennington Road, Old Concord Road in Deering, by Monadnock Paper Mill, and Bennington village bridge.

New Business

- Review of Earth Day
 - On the day of the cleanup 55 bags were collected however 167 bags were collected on or about that date.
 - Concern about the day being too far from April 22 Earth Day. Next year it will be held on Saturday, April 22.
 - It was a consensus that we should have a pancake/waffle breakfast again.
 - Tom James would like to have a box of blue bags at the dump to give out to those wishing to do cleanups at times other than Earth Day.
- Report on Bennington Trail Maintenance -
 - Zach organised a cleanup of the Bennington Trail. Zach, his son, Emmett, Pat Long, Joe MacGregor and Mike Munhall spent Saturday trimming trees, creating drains for wet areas and looking for places to perhaps build bridges over wet areas and creating switchbacks to make the climb somewhat less challenging.
 - Recommendations are to build a better parking area, a kiosk, and reblaze trails at the top for more clarity. Perhaps the Boy Scouts can make these a project.
- Rhubarb Festival Display Plans
 - Jon Manley will use his big tent for the day. He will have maps, NRI, Fish and Game scat and track cards. It is also National Trail Day, Mike will make a sign for it.
- June 18 River Scouting Trip
 - Steve Willette will organise the trip with a chainsaw and loppers to clear branches in the water to make clear passage for canoes the following weekend.
- Edes Forest suggestions

- Jon Manley brought up the idea of making a new trail between the bench on the river and the rail tracks to avoid having to walk over the extremely rocky current trail. It was suggested that perhaps the current trail should be de-rocked as others have had difficulty on it, too. It will be looked into.
- Steve Willette suggested that an additional bench should be placed on the hill above the huge glacial erratic on the White Trail.

Meeting Adjourned 7:55PM

Minutes by Mike Munhall