



Bennington Conservation Commission
June 15, 2023 6:30PM

Minutes

Call to order: 6:32 by Mike Munhall

Attendance -

Present: Zach Allen, Tom James, Joe MacGregor, Jon Manley, Mike Munhall, Steve Willette,
Guest: Rhonda Davies

Absent: Pat Long

Minutes:

Minutes from April 20, 2023 Approved

Minutes from May 18, 2023 Approved

Mail: None

Reports

- River Committee - None

- Town Hall - Tom James
 - What is the end time for the Bennington pit? There is no plan and the Select Board feels it will remain open for another 10 years. There was further discussion about the town developing a plan now even though the pit will stay open for a good many years. When there are commercial gravel operations, they are required to have a plan for closing and submit a bond to cover that operation, the town should do the same and put funds aside each year to cover the cost of closing. Tom will speak with the Road Agent and the Board about any plans.
 - Tom mentioned that there has been interest in groups wanting to do long-term rental of the Depot. The Selectmen haven't discussed it at this time.

Old Business

- VOTE on Bar Harbor Bank funds - moving the funds to an interest bearing account.
 - GUEST: Rhonda Davie, Bennington Treasurer was present to answer questions about moving the Commission Fund into an interest bearing CD. To the question of what sort of access we would have short of the maturity of the CD? Early withdrawal would be a penalty of 3 months of interest. Money markets would involve excessive fees for deposit and withdrawal.

- MOTION: Steve Willette moved that the 75% of Commission current funds be moved to a 13 month CD currently at 3.75% APY and that the remaining 25% shall be in an interest bearing savings account. Second by Jon Manley. VOTE unanimous. A request will be made to the Selectmen to approve the move of these funds to new accounts.
- Contoocook Canoe Cruise -
 - June 24 at 9:00 AM meeting at the Covered Bridge on Forest Road. Several commissioners will be unable to attend due to other commitments. Mike needs to contact Keith Nason about the electronic sign and put the swinging sign up. Need to purchase snacks.
- MidSummer Festival -
 - Mike will buy hotdogs, rolls, and bottles of ketchup, mustard, relish for 100 people. Most commissioners will be there. Joe and Steve will grill and steam the dogs, respectively.
- Earth Day Cleanup Checklist - approved
- Rhubarb Festival - Jon Manley staffed the tent. He estimated that about 50+ people took a pamphlet. He suggested that since the maps are getting tattered we should have them laminated. [FOLLOWUP \$26/map at PeteCamera] Thanks to Jon for his work.
- Moving the Historic Marker #0153 from US 202 to the Depot - Before the letter was reviewed Jon Manley mentioned that he had spoken with several people years ago about moving the marker. However, none of it is documented and thus we will send a letter to the state and speak with the Bennington Historical Society, which paid for the sign, about moving it to the Depot parking area.
- Antrim Road Triangle - Tom James said he would speak with the Road Agent about when the road crew can work on the triangle. It might take some time as the recent squall put them behind on their schedule. He also mentioned that Robblee Tree Service will be needed to remove the large tree intertwined with the power lines. There was a discussion about how to plant the new triangle: grass lawn? shrubs? perennials? It was suggested that Bennington create a garden club to care for the various gardens around the village.
- Upcoming speakers and events
 - June 23 - Midsummer's Eve hot dogs
 - June 24 - River Paddle 9:00 AM
 - June 27 - Susie Spikol with the Library at the Depot at 6:30 PM

- July 15 - Dale Russell on Trains at the Depot at 6:30 PM The \$100 fee will be donated to the library for it to purchase children's books about railroads.
- Finalize BCC Brochure - Suggestions: better picture of Depot, Zach has some suggestions he will send to Mike.

New Business

- Fallen trees in Edes - it was mentioned that there are some large fallen trees along the riverbank near the poison ivy sign that should be mitigated. It was decided that we will deal with them in the autumn.
- Zach has been in touch with Ryan Leo of Volunteer River Assistant Programs, regarding equipment and processes.

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.

Adjourned 7:54 motion by Jon, seconded by Tom, unanimous

Recorded by Mike Munhall