



Bennington Conservation Commission
August 17, 2023 6:30PM

Minutes

Call to order: 6:32PM by Mike Munhall

Attendance - Zach Allen, Tom James, Pat Long, Joe MacGregor, Jon Manley, Mike Munhall, Steve Willette. **Visitor:** Jane Butler, prospective commissioner. **Guest:** Matt Blanchard, road agent

Minutes: From June 15, 2023 edited “Zach has been in touch with Ryan Leo about the Volunteer River Assessment Program equipment and processes.” Joe moved their acceptance as edited, seconded by Jon Manley, unanimous approval.

Mail: A letter from GEP Dodge Library thanking the BCC for the train books purchased for the library with funds from Dale Russell’s talk.

Guest: Matt Blanchard, Road Agent, came to answer questions about the gravel pit at the transfer station. The pit was opened in 1994 and a contract with Antrim and Frankestown was drawn up in 1999 stipulating the amounts of gravel each town would draw from the pit and in 3 phases. There are one million cubic yards of gravel of which about 250,000 cy have been taken. After each phase, that land will be reclaimed with appropriate landscaping to put it back to a “natural” state. Matt will inquire as to whether Antrim and Frankestown have or will post a bond to assist with the financing of the reclamation once they are no longer drawing gravel from it.

It was mentioned that to the BCC’s collective memory this was the first time a town official came to the BCC to explain anything going on on that land.

The next topic was the Antrim/Bible Hill triangle. Robblee Trees will take down the large tree for \$1250 in the next several weeks. Joe made a motion, seconded by Steve, that the BCC will pay for it with Conservation Funds minus the left over 2023 budget funds. It passed unanimously.

Reports

- River Committee -
- Town Hall - Tom James
 - Update on Depot lease: the pedal car company has done a lot of preparation for their request. Tom said that the company, if they get permission, will not use the main room of the Depot but only the back room and kitchen. The residents will vote on it next March.

Old Business

- Update on Bar Harbor Bank funds - moving the funds to an interest bearing account. An email was sent to the selectmen but never seen so the selectmen haven't made a decision about moving funds.
- Contoocook Canoe Cruise - We made the right decision to call off the paddle due to the forecast.
- MidSummer Festival - Canceled due to rain.
- Dale Russell Review - great turnout and talk...we need to do more like that.
- Susie Spikol Review - great program for kids...we need to do more like it.
- Historic Marker Update - the move is in the process. Once the DOT has the time the marker will be moved.
- Antrim Road Triangle - see above
- New brochure distribution -
- The DES has written a letter to the owners of 77 South Bennington Road regarding a violation of RSA 482-A listing three corrections to the wetlands they need to make to the property to

New Business

- Edes Forest Annual Walk will be Saturday, September 9 at 9AM and Joe will lead it
- Forest and fallen trees - we will have a work day September 16 at 9AM There is a large tree by the poison ivy that needs careful removal.
- Bennington Trail - we will have a work day on the trail
- Due to the number of work days this fall, the Greenfield perambulation has been postponed to a later date.

Upcoming Calendar Items to Note

- Bruce Edes Forest Walk Saturday, September 9 at 9AM
- Forest work day to clear trails. Saturday, September 16 at 9AM
- Bennington Trail maintenance, Saturday October 14 at 9AM

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 7:59PM on a motion from Joe and seconded by Steve.

Recorded by Mike Munhall