



Bennington Conservation Commission
September 21, 2023 6:30PM

Minutes

Call to order: 6:30 by Mike Munhall

Attendance - Present: Joe MacGregor, Jon Manley, Mike Munhall, Jane Butler
Absent: Zach Allen, Tom James, Steve Willette, Pat Long

Minutes: Minutes of August meeting approved

Finances: \$337 Budget balance
 \$102,708.77 Conservation Fund balance

Mail: attached

Email from NHACC re: Conservation Funds
Email from Library and Community Supper

Reports

- NHACC - Annual Meeting November 4 at Pembroke Academy - Zach, Jon, Joe and Mike will be attending. Registration is \$60
- River Committee - Reported to RC that the Factory Village marker had been moved and that the BCC now had a pamphlet of its own.
- Town Hall - Tom James

Old Business

- Antrim Road/Bible Hill Triangle - The Road Crew had Robblee Tree Service take down the large silver maple. They also rough cut the brush. More scraping will be done. Steve (via Joe) says there is granite curbing at the Town Garage that could be used to curb the corner.
- Update on Bar Harbor Bank funds - NHACC Exec Director sent an email in response to Mike's inquiry about how Conservation Funds can be invested. The guidelines give a lot of authority to the Town Treasurer in lieu of there being a town investment plan. We need to ascertain if there is a town investment plan and then move from there.
- Historic Marker Update - State DOT responded rapidly to Mike's email requesting the move of the marker. It is now located in the depot parking lot along the river.

New Business

- Edes Forest Annual Walk - five people attended along with commissioners Zach, Joe and Jon.
- Forest and fallen trees - Steve, Joe and Mike spent a morning cutting down trees in the forest that have been leaning and posing a danger to hikers. Steve has found a town resident who will voluntarily cut the larger trees for us.
- Bennington Trail - we will have a work day on the trail Saturday, October 14 at 9AM, meet at the Depot
- Community Supper - the BCC will do a repeat of the Sausage Fest in February 8
 - We will also help the Library with their April supper.

Membership - Jane Butler was interviewed and approved as our new commissioner.

Upcoming Calendar Items to Note

- Bennington Trail maintenance, Saturday October 14 at 9AM

Next Meeting October 19 ANNUAL MEETING Joe and Jon reappointment

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 7:41PM

Recorded by Mike Munhall