



Bennington Conservation Commission

Caring for the Land and Cultivating Community since 1989

May 16, 2024 6:30 PM at the Depot

Minutes

Call to order: 6:30PM

Attendance: Zach Allen, Jon Manley, Joe MacGregor, Steve Willette, Jane Butler, Mike Munhall

Minutes: From April approved unanimously

Correspondence:

- DES email about Lake Whittemore property - DES is requesting that the owner get an after-the-fact building permit.

Reports

- River Committee - Hillsborough History Alive in mid-June, Jon will be hosting their display. Antrim well work is progressing, the 2000+ft tunnel was dug quickly.
- Town Hall Update - Tom -
- Finances - current balance \$1,893

Old Business

- Sawdust expansion -Followup after DES clarification? As long as the sawdust is mitigating invasives, it's permitted. It is up to the Select Board to follow up after the DES letter, will they inform the sawdust owners on North Bennington Road?
- North Bennington Road complaint followup - nothing new
- Earth Day Review and Future - Breakfast was good but not many people showed. Thanks to Monadnock Paper Mills and Common Place Cafe for their support and donations.
 - We'll do breakfast again in 2025 and reevaluate future breakfasts.
 - Consider making it "Bennington Day" and invite all community organizations (fire dept, scouts, Sportsman's Club, select board...) to be part of it. Create a festival with speakers and displays. However, we need to consider the school vacation and fishing season.

- Perambulation of Greenfield Townline...Held June 8. Zach Allen, Joe MacGregor and Mike Munhall did the walk and marking.
- Plans for Antrim/Bible hill triangle - Update - Soil has been dropped...needs twice as much. A vehicle has hit the Antrim Road end and flipped the granite wall block. Soil is supplied by JCL.
- Bylaw rough draft review -Off the table

New Business

- Announcements:
 - Zach - Bennington Trail and VRAP - Zach was going to clean the Bennington Trail on Saturday.
 - Old Deerfield Forest Seminar June 28-29 Jane will be attending
- Rhubarb Festival involvement - will do the set up. Jon, Mike and Jane will staff the tent throughout the day.
- June 29 Contoocook River Paddle - 9AM at the Powdermill Ponds Boat Launch. We will paddle toward Peterborough. Advertise with Nashua Area Kayak Expedition Destination, Facebook
- Educational programming - Death of Songbirds and Bats
 - Find speakers - We need to find speakers and schedule events for the fall.

Upcoming Calendar Items to Note -

- *Rhubarb Festival Saturday, June 1*
- *Perambulate Greenfield line June 8*
- *River Paddle June 29*

Meeting was adjourned 7:55PM

Next Meeting June 20 @6:30 @ depot

Recorded by

- GOALS FOR 2024 - adopted October 19, 2023

1. Establish a property conservation easement educational program to help residents decide to put their land into conservation or common use. Look into providing financial assistance to those wishing to do either.
2. Make a greater effort to get a website operational.
3. Perambulate Greenfield townline and complete the Deering townline.
4. Monitor water quality in town waters and look into remediation of current issues.
5. Continue work on the Bennington Trail and build a parking area at the trailhead.
6. Do more educational programming on environmental issues and history.