



**Bennington Conservation Commission**  
*Caring for the Land and Cultivating Community since 1989*  
**June 20, 2024 6:30 PM at the TOWN HALL**

*Minutes*

*Call to order:* 6:38

*Attendance:* Jane Butler, Steve Willette, Joe MacGregor, Mike Munhall. Not present: Jon Manley, Zach Allen, Tom James.

*Minutes:* From May - Several amendments to “Sawdust expansion” and Antrim/Bible Hill”

*Correspondence:* None

*Reports*

- River Committee - Reported to the committee on Rhubarb Festival interest. The 2200 water well pipe from Bennington to Antrim is complete.
- Town Hall Update - Tom -
- Finances - current budget balance
  - Bank balances -
    - cash \$32,146.58
    - CD \$78,960.83

*Old Business*

- Rhubarb Review - Jane, Jon and Mike staffed the tent. Lots of chatting with people, many new to the area. The whole festival was reported as being the most successful yet. Next year we need to create a banner to promote the Paddle.
- Perambulation of Greenfield Townline...Review - Zach, Joe and Mike walked from the Crotched Rehab Center to South Bennington Road by the RR tracks. Monuments were marked with “24.” Saw a porcupine, salamanders, scat from moose and deer.
- 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. The Road Agent has said he will get more soil and fix the granite slab.

- Once soil is in we will grass most of it with probably 3 shrubs (rhododendron with two others (Mugo pine, hydrangea, spirea...) pick plants that don't bloom all at the same time.
- Bennington Trail - (From Zach Allen, *in absentia*) Zach performed trail maintenance on May 18th. Removed sticks, fallen branches and a half dozen blowdowns on the way up. On the way down the new developing switchbacks were raked. Work dates needed to further establish the switchback section will be communicated via email once identified. Also it was noted that flagging was placed along the trail as a logging boundary establishment for the adjacent parcel just north of the trail.
  - We need to contact all the property owners with land crossed by the Bennington Trail.
- VRAP - May's sampling failed due to equipment issues. Liam from DES visited with Zach to review equipment on June 12th. pH meter is still questionable but Zach will resume sampling on June 24th.
- Bylaw rough draft review - we need to finalize the section on complaints if the other sections can't be done yet.

### *New Business*

- River Paddle - as of now the weather looks promising. But no decision will be made about canceling until the morning of the Paddle. We need to get some snacks.
- Update status of goals
  - 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. ***We held an informational meeting with Eric Masterson speaking about easements. It was fairly well attended.***
    2. Make a greater effort to get a website operational.
    3. Perambulate Greenfield townline and complete the Deering townline. ***Greenfield townline perambulated June 8***
    4. Monitor water quality in town waters and look into remediation of current issues. ***Ongoing mostly with Zach Allen's efforts.***
    5. Continue work on the Bennington Trail and build a parking area at the trailhead. ***There have been two work parties to work on improving the Bennington Trail.***
    6. Do more educational programming on environmental issues and history.

- Educational programming - Death of Songbirds and Bats
  - Find speakers - Eric Masterson of the Harris Center - birds
  - Jenn Sutton on Salamanders
- Timber cuts - Joe McG commented that there is a bunch of timber cutting on Old Greenfield Road and asked if there is a Timbercut on file.
- Joe mentioned that we should encourage the residents around Lake Whittemore to create a Lake Association to coordinate efforts in dealing with the health of the lake. (Gregg Lake in Antrim has an association that could be used as a model.) He mentioned that there is a dye that can be used to follow any wastewater from houses around the lake. Joe is going to call DES and NHACC to find out if there are lake experts on pollution who we could get as a speaker.

***Upcoming Calendar Items to Note -***

- *River Paddle June 29*

***Meeting was adjourned*** 7:36 PM on a motion from Joe and second by Steve and a unanimous vote.

***Next Meeting*** *August 15*

***Recorded by*** Mike Munhall