



Bennington Conservation Commission

Caring for the Land and Cultivating Community since 1989

ANNUAL MEETING

October 17, 2024 6:30PM

Minutes

Call to order: 6:34PM by Mike Munhall

Attendance - Jane Butler, Zach Allen, Joe MacGregor, Mike Munhall

Minutes: September 19 approved on a motion by Joe MacGregor, seconded by Zach Allen

Finances: As of October 17 Balance of budget: \$588.17

Mail: NHACC Earth Day 2025 Our Power, Our Planet

Reports

- NHACC - Annual Meeting November 7 at Pembroke Academy. Registration is \$60
 - Who's going? Joe MacGregor
- River Committee - Joe and Jon - meeting next week
- Town Hall - Tom James -

Old Business

- Antrim Road/Bible Hill Triangle - Update - grass is coming in nicely
 - Bought and planted additional hydrangea
 - Bulb planting will be before the end of October
- Moose talk - review - the speaker, Rich Masters of NH Fish and Game who also gave the talk about bobcats several months ago gave the same one hour introduction about all the animals in NH he had with the bobcat talk and then gave a rather brief focus on moose as he had a brief focus on bobcats previously. We will contact NH Fish and Game about our concern that these talks are not what they are billed to be.

- Forest and fallen trees - Forest Work Day - It was noted on our forest walk that there were a number of fallen trees needing clearing from the trails. It was decided that the date be moved back to Saturday, November 16

New Business

- Sausage Supper - Tom signed Dave Blanchard's Group up for music for our February 13 Community Supper
- Bennington Trail - Girl Scouts have offered to do some work and will be scheduled
- Trail cam with Pierce 4th grade - the Pierce 4th grade sent a letter requesting that the BCC purchase a trail cam for the Bruce Edes Forest so that they can use the photos for their study of mammals. They sent three options for cams that they had researched. The commission was in favor of helping the class but will do some of its own research to get additional options. We will invite the students to the November meeting to discuss the selection.

Membership reappointment- Zach Allen 2024-2027

Jane Butler completing an unexpired term 2024-2027

Both Jane and Zach were unanimously reappointed.

2025 Budget

CONSERVATION COMMISSION			
Category			
Year	Budget 2024	Requested 2025?	Notes
Labor	400	400	
FICA	31	31	
Dues	342	500	Increased dues
Supplies	50	69	
Education	1000	1000	Increased fees for programs, more work with Pierce students
Misc	633	1000	Forest projects, landscaping
TOTAL	2456	3000	

We are asking for \$544 additional to cover increased costs and that the commission is sponsoring 5+ talks per year, Earth Day activities, work with Pierce School students, development of the Bennington Trail, and things like the triangle at Antrim

Road/Bible Hill Road and care and improvement of the Edes Forest and Bennington Trail, and our highly successful community supper in February.

Review of 2024 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 put on a public meeting informing residents of how to conserve their land.**
 2. Make a greater effort to get a website operational. **No progress.**
 3. Perambulate Greenfield townline and complete the Deering townline. **We perambulated the Greenfield townline.**
 4. Monitor water quality in town waters and look into remediation of current issues. **Zach Allen's ongoing water testing.**
 5. Continue work on the Bennington Trail and build a parking area at the trailhead. **Zach Allen has led the work on the Trail and has plans for additional improvements.**
 6. Do more educational programming on environmental issues and history. **Sponsored talks on Conservation of land, Bobcats, Moose, Bennington in the Civil War, and impact of climate change.**

Goals for 2025 voted unanimously. Adopted October 2024

1. Continue the 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. Finish perambulating the Deering townline.
3. Continue to monitor water quality and serve in an advisory role to help permanent residents establish lake associations to take the lead in keeping bodies of water clean.
4. Continue to hold educational programming to address issues in town such as land and water preservation as well as informational presentations on animals, history, and climate issues.
5. Continue to improve the Bennington Trail with marking and parking.

6. Increase membership of the Bennington Conservation Commission.

Upcoming Calendar Items to Note

- NHACC Annual Meeting Nov 2
- Climate Talk November 7
- Forest Cleanup - November 16

Next Meeting November 21

Adjourned 7:55

Recorded by Mike Munhall