

# APPROVED

## Town of Grantham Grantham Conservation Commission

### MEETING MINUTES June 18, 2012

Kristina Burgard called the Conservation Commission to order on Monday, June 18, 2012, at 7:06 p.m. The meeting was held in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Room at Grantham Town Hall located at 300 Route 10 South in Grantham, NH.

**Present:** Merle Schotanus; Kristina Burgard; Lindsey (Dixon) Lefebvre; Joe Watts (*Alternate*); and David Wood (*Alternate*).

**Absent:** Chairman Richard (Dick) Hocker; Jeremy Turner

**Members of Public:** None

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

##### *Approval of Minutes for 21 May 2012 Meeting*

Burgard asked the Commission members if there were any additions, corrections, or modifications to the draft minutes for the May 21, 2012 meeting.

Schotanus requested that on page 1, first paragraph under “Land Issues”, that “±38” be changed to “38.3”.

*With no further corrections suggested, Schotanus moved to approve and accept the May 21, 2012 Minutes as amended; second by Wood. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.*

***Unanimously Approved & Accepted***

#### NEW BUSINESS

None

#### OTHER BUSINESS

##### Land Issues

##### *Cote & Reney Properties*

Schotanus reported that the acquisition of the Cote & Reney parcels are in process with New Hampshire Fish & Game (“NH F&G”), and it is unlikely that any further information will be available until around October. Once these properties are transferred to NH F&G, the appraisal relating to the donation value will need to be performed. Schotanus also reported that the Cote & Reney mill was recently sold. Schotanus indicated that with regard to any remaining Cote & Reney land previously mentioned by Mr. McIntire, it is unclear what Mr. McIntire’s plans are at this point, and thus there is no action for the Commission to take at this time.

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### *Hastings Lot Memorial*

Burgard opened discussion on the mock-up of the language and layout for the memorial plaque, which currently reads, “In Memory of Wilfred Malcolm Hastings “Will” loved the woods and all wildlife. He would be honored and humbled to know that Grantham dedicated this land in memory of their native son.” Burgard indicated that the Upper Valley Land Trust should review & approve the language, and it is possible they might also want to be referenced on the plaque. It was agreed that this language should first be reviewed by the UVLT for any suggested changes and their approval before we send it to Karen Hastings for her review. Burgard will coordinate getting any proposed revisions and approval from UVLT, and then sending the resulting language to Mrs. Hastings.

Watts reported that the final quote for an 8”x12” bronze plaque engraved with the current plaque wording, with a pole, is \$536. He indicated that as long as the language doesn’t change too much, he believes the quoted price should remain about the same. It was agreed that as soon as UVLT and Mrs. Hastings approve the final language, Watts would place the order and report on how long it will take until the plaque is ready.

Burgard stated that it would be nice to have a dedication ceremony of some kind, perhaps in the early fall as the leaves are turning, and include an optional hike on the property, and broadly advertise it and invite the public. All agreed such a ceremony should be arranged. Schotanus stated that Will Hastings was a founding member of the Blue Mountain Snowdusters (“BMSD”), and he felt they would be interested in being a part of the dedication ceremony in some way, perhaps coordinating the ceremony with the BMSD/Prouty Team annual hike in the Fall. Schotanus will follow-up with BMSD, and Burgard will advise Mrs. Hastings that there will be a dedication ceremony and request if she has any preference regarding the timing.

### **Planning for Conservation**

#### *Continued Planning for Wetlands Inventory project – Next steps*

Burgard asked for any updates relating to the Wetlands Inventory project. Schotanus reported that he and Hocker meet with Will Abbott, the Vice President of Policy and Management for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (“SPNHF”) to discuss the letter they sent to the Commission. Mr. Abbott indicated that SPNHF fully supports the Wetlands Inventory and the conservation of natural resources, and wetlands in particular, are a high priority for SPNHF. The letter the Commission received is a form letter that SPNHF uses to ensure that they remain “in the loop” and that they have an opportunity to talk with towns throughout the prime wetlands designation process.

Schotanus indicated that he felt the Commission should consult with Dr. Van de Poll to make sure he is on target with the next steps once the evaluations are complete, and to begin setting a timeline for each step, including contacting landowners once we have proposed candidates for designation as prime wetlands. Schotanus volunteered to coordinate with Dr. Van de Poll to confirm next steps and a schedule of the same once the evaluations are completed.

Watts reported that no further landowner letters or access forms were received.

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Lefebvre advised that the number of volunteers is very low due to many people being out of town, ill, or otherwise engaged. She held a second refresher training, but no one attended perhaps because it was raining heavily that day. Lefebvre state that she feels that most people volunteered based on their availability last summer and since the maps were delayed until October, many of those volunteers were not only unavailable last fall, they are also not available this summer. Lefebvre also indicated that there are still quite a few wetland evaluation units to be done, and she feels that with a few exceptions, the trained members of the Commission will need to perform these evaluations. She will coordinate with everyone to get these units assigned with a goal of trying to complete them as soon as possible.

Lefebvre will review the access permission list and create a list of those units where we have no permission to access based on non-response of the landowner(s), and then Schotanus and Watts will use that list to coordinate contacting those landowners personally. As it is unclear whether Dr. Van de Poll and his student intern will complete evaluations where we have no access permission to perform on-site evaluations, Burgard was asked to check with Dr. Van de Poll to confirm who will complete these evaluations based on the aerial information (and roadside where available) and report his response back to the Commission.

Burgard reported that she is still working on the next E-Newsletter, but health issues are interfering with getting this done. She hopes to have the next issue out by the end of June or mid-July at the latest. She renewed the request that if any of the Commissioners have something they'd like to see in the newsletter, they should email the information to her.

### **Perambulation Status**

Burgard asked Wood and Watts for an update on the Perambulation. Wood reported that one section along the Enfield/Grantham border is completed, and they will continue to work on the remaining sections over the summer. He also reported that walking the Croydon/Grantham border is arranged for July 9 & 10, with permission granted to go into Corbin Park on July 10. Wood invited other Commissioners to join the walk, but asked that they let him know if they will attend as soon as possible. In addition, he will reach out to Selectmen Kimball by phone to confirm whether or not he will attend.

Burgard queried about the status of the perambulation along the Plainfield/Grantham border. Wood reported that his reading of the files indicates that this border was perambulated at a later date than the others, and thus it is not due for perambulation this year. Wood will confirm that this is the case and report back to the Commission. Burgard noted that if the due date for perambulating this border is within the next year or so, if time and schedules permit, it may be beneficial to perform it this year so that all borders are on the same schedule to avoid confusion in the future.

### **Old Home Day**

Burgard reported that the Commission has a space reserved for a table at Old Home Day, and she will pull together materials for the table, including water testing kits, Wetlands Inventory FAQ,

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E-Newsletter sign-up sheet, and other information on wetlands, water quality, habitats, and the like. There was some discussion about the location of the table. Burgard will check with Laurie Fields to see if the Commission's table can be under the big tent, and if so, Watts's tent will not be needed. Wood and Lefebvre both indicated that they believe their schedules will permit them to staff the table for some portion of the time, and they will confirm their availability by email. Burgard will check on Hocker's availability.

### **OTHER BUSINESS- Additional Items**

Burgard reported that the Commission's Upper Valley Trails Alliance membership had been submitted and should be active soon.

Lefebvre advised that she was married earlier in the month, and that she will be using her married name. She requested that all future Commission documentation use her married name, "Lindsey Lefebvre" rather than Dixon. Burgard indicated she would change the website member listing and use her new name on all minutes in the future. Burgard advised Lefebvre to check with the Town Clerk to make sure that she didn't need to update her appointment documentation due to the name change.

### **HAND OUTS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Burgard asked if there was any further business. There being none, Schotanus moved to adjourn, and Wood seconded the motion.

*The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:38 p.m.*

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on July 16, 2012, in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kristina Burgard*

Kristina Burgard  
Grantham Conservation Commission