

APPROVED

Town of Grantham Grantham Conservation Commission

MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 19, 2013

Chairman Richard L. Hocker called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, August 19, 2013 at 7:04 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: Chairman Richard (Dick) Hocker; Sheridan Brown; Susan Buchanan; Connie Howard; and Caroline Hoen (Clerk)

Absent: Lindsey Lefebvre; Joseph Watts (Alternate); David Wood (Alternate)

ADMINISTRATIVE

Approval of Minutes for 16 July, 2013 Meeting

Chair Hocker asked the Commission members if there were any additions, corrections, or modifications to the draft minutes for the July 16, 2013 meeting.

There being none, a motion was made by Howard to approve and accept the July 16, 2013 minutes as written; second by Buchanan. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.

Unanimously Approved & Accepted

NEW BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Town Forest Management

Smith Lot Plan

Hocker referenced the Commission's decision to retain forester Jeremy Turner to develop a plan to enhance the health of the Smith Lot forest, including recommendations for the future development of a recreational trail system. A letter has been sent to Mr. Turner asking him to take on this responsibility and to attend the Commission's next meeting on September 16th to outline the specifics of the plan and a schedule for implementation. Hocker anticipates that the work will be done during the coming winter of 2014.

Open Space Initiative

Hocker reported that he and Commissioner Wood had attended the Selectmen's last meeting but that no progress had been made on the appointment of the new Open Space Committee. He

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explained that the Town administrative staff has been slowed down by other projects and by vacation schedules. He expected that some action would be taken to empanel the Committee at the Selectmen's next regular meeting on August 28th. In response to a question from Buchanan, Hocker stated that the immediate task before the Committee would be to compile an inventory of all open, undeveloped spaces in Grantham larger than ten (10) acres, regardless of ownership. A follow up task could be to make assessments of those properties in order to provide information to the Selectmen and Planning Board for the mandated 2015 revision of the Town Master Plan.

Planning for Conservation

Wetlands Overlay District

Hocker stated that he had extrapolated wetlands overlay regulations from the Town's current zoning regulations and planned to circulate a draft of the new document to the Commissioners and to Conrad Frey, Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The current shoreline protection overlay provides a model for the new wetlands version. Ultimately this overlay district would be included with the Town zoning ordinances but would first need to be approved by the Planning Board and then by the voters at the March 2014 Town Meeting.

New Initiatives

Invasive Species Inventory and Eradication

Hocker reported that Commissioner David Wood had given a presentation to the Grantham Garden Club on local invasive species and methods for their eradication. Such presentations will help to educate the public about this problem. Wood and his team of volunteers have been successful in controlling a stand of Autumn Olive and one of the stands of Glossy Buckthorn in Eastman and are experimenting with eradication methods for *Phragmites*. Once effective methods have been established for the Eastman area, a more comprehensive program of identification, education and eradication for the Town as a whole can be developed.

Perambulation Status

Hocker reported that Dave Wood and his counterparts in Plainfield have agreed to postpone the perambulation of the Grantham/Plainfield boundary until early spring 2014. The challenge with this particular line is that it runs through a section of the privately owned Corbin Park (Blue Mountain Forest Association) that is used for hunting all through the fall and also has thick vegetation that can make the boundary markers difficult to find. This perambulation must be completed by 2017, allowing considerable leeway as to timing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flewelling Property

Hocker announced that he planned to schedule the Commission's obligatory yearly inspection the Flewelling easement property (Sherwood Forest) in late September or early October of this year and that he would invite the owners of the property and the Selectmen to participate. He asked the Commissioners to report their availability in order to set a date. His plan is for the group to check the 19- acre campground, the dam, the beach and any intact structures. The easement comprises the campground plus 825 additional acres and was established in the 1990's. The property is currently for sale but the conservation easement will remain operative regardless of ownership. Hocker expressed concern that the easement restrictions be clearly communicated to potential buyers and that a good working relationship be developed between the Town and the

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eventual new owners. There have been problems in the past with the enforcement of the easement's conservation restrictions. Hocker stated that he would provide Brown with copies of the easement agreements.

Hocker also agreed to schedule a tour of the Smith Lot for Buchanan and Lefebvre who had not yet visited that site.

HANDOUTS

Copies of the *Handbook for New Hampshire Municipal Conservation Commissions*, provided by Dave Wood, were distributed.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hocker asked if there was any further business. There being none, Brown moved to adjourn the meeting and Buchanan seconded the motion.

The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Grantham Conservation Commission will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 16, 2013, in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Hoen

Caroline Hoen, Clerk