

# **APPROVED**

## **Town of Grantham Grantham Conservation Commission**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**July 18, 2016**

Chairman Richard Hocker called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, July 18, 2016 at 7:09 p.m. The meeting was held in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at Grantham Town Hall located at 300 Route 10 South in Grantham, NH.

**Present:** Chairman Richard Hocker, Dennis Ryan, Rich Kaszeta, David Wood, Laura Nagy

**Meeting minutes:** Nikki Arsenault

**Absent:** John Larrabee, Susan Buchanan

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

##### ***Approval of Minutes for the June 20, 2016 Meeting***

Chairman Hocker asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modifications to the draft meeting minutes for the June 20, 2016 meeting.

There being no changes or additions to the minutes, Chairman Hocker noted that he would entertain a motion to approve the June 20, 2016 minutes.

*A motion was made by Nagy to approve the June 20, 2016 minutes; second by Wood. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.*

***Unanimously Approved & Accepted***

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **Brookside Park:**

**Trail Activities** – Wood noted that the new trail marker signs with the QR codes are now up. Wood added that when you scan the QR code on the sign, it downloads a pdf file. He assumes that most people have the ability to download the pdfs on their smart phones, but if not, this may be a problem. For now, it works. There are a couple of edits (new information from the geologist) that will be added at a later date.

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**Bridge Construction** – Chairman Hocker noted that the bridge was completed as of July 11<sup>th</sup> at approximately 2:30 p.m. Hocker added that the question now will be how to proceed with a ceremony or ribbon cutting ceremony. Nagy noted that she will draft a letter to the Byrne Foundation and include some photos from the project in addition to the date of the celebration, once it is decided. Wood questioned if it might be appropriate to have Selectman Warren Kimball sign off on the letter and the Commission concluded that it wasn't necessary given that the gift was made specifically to the Conservation Commission. Nagy continued her update by noting that she will keep abreast of publicity opportunities. Chairman Hocker added that he will be away the 26<sup>th</sup> through the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August. Ryan noted that the bridge will still need to be stained. It is possible that the Commission could wait to hold the ceremony until after the staining is complete? Following some discussion on the topic, the Commission agreed that because the bridge (wood) should sit for approximately a year prior to staining the wood that it would be best to schedule the ribbon cutting ceremony for a day in August. Ryan questioned the option of planning something alongside the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee's events. The group agreed that the best date would be Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Ideas for celebration: food/cookout/hot dogs, balloons, hikes/tours. Chairman Hocker agreed to ask the Selectboard and also to speak to the Town Administrator about the event. Nagy questioned if any other committees or groups should be notified. Chairman Hocker noted that the Grantham Recreation Department should be notified.

*Potential schedule:*

Dedication at 11am

Light lunch to follow

Nagy agreed to put some ideas together and send them out via email. Chairman Hocker added that he provided a draft (at the meeting) of an idea for a plaque for the bridge (sized 11"x14" approximately). He would like the plaque to be placed on the side of the bridge, perhaps in the middle of the bridge. Nagy and Kaszeta made suggested edits to the sign, including to have the "Funding" section attributed to the Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation, the Town of Grantham and should also include mention of Community Volunteers.

**Cost Elements** – Kaszeta noted that he has a receipt for in the amount of \$63.16 for the purchase of nuts, bolts and washers for installing the railings.

Chairman Hocker noted that he would entertain a motion to reimburse Kaszeta in the amount of \$63.16 from the General Fund.

Nagy made a motion to approve this reimbursement.

Wood seconded the motion.

***Unanimously Approved & Accepted***

Ryan questioned the health of the General Fund and Chairman Hocker noted that this information is located on the cost spreadsheet provided at the meeting. Hocker noted that the GCC is in good shape.

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Ryan then produced receipts in the amount of \$588.50 for lumber, nuts and bolts.

Chairman Hocker noted that he would entertain a motion to reimburse Ryan in the amount of \$588.50 from the General Fund.

Kaszeta made a motion to approve the reimbursement in the amount of \$588.50 from the General Fund. Wood seconded the motion.

### ***Unanimously Approved & Accepted***

Wood produced receipts for reimbursement in the amount of \$519.75 for signage previously approved and building materials.

Chairman Hocker noted that he would entertain a motion to approve the reimbursement of Wood in the amount of \$519.75.

Nagy made a motion to approve the \$519.75 reimbursement.

Kaszeta seconded the motion.

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Chairman Hocker added that with respect to invoices, the following were paid: Twin States, Noel Eastman. Chairman Hocker also noted that the SCA has not sent an invoice for payment. With respect to the budget, Wood suggested that the dues payment to Upper Valley Land Trust should be moved off of the spreadsheet. Chairman Hocker noted that he would check on this because it will depend on which money exists in which funds. Wood added that because it is “trail” associated but not “Brookside Park” it may need to be moved to another section of the spreadsheet. Hocker will check on this with the administrative office.

Kaszeta noted that there is a good amount of scrap lumber that will need to be taken care of. Wood added that most of the smaller boards and lumber pieces have been removed from the site. Kaszeta noted that he would store some of the remaining larger boards in case the Commission needs them at a later date or for another project.

Chairman Hocker announced that Jeff Hastings will begin to move equipment onto the property to commence the driveway project at Brookside Park. There is one truck load of stone (trail mix). Jeff believes that four truck loads will be necessary for this project. The remaining three loads of stone will need to be reimbursed the Town Road Agent and the project should take approximately three weeks. Ryan added that the timeframe on the completion of this project will coincide nicely with the Commission’s ribbon cutting for the Park. With respect to the use of the bridge, Wood noted that the visitors’ book has a full two pages of visitors listed. Hocker added that it might be nice to add a picnic table sometime in September. Wood added that the picnic table in the parking area is damaged and will need to either be repaired or replaced. Kaszeta noted that he would check to see what lumber he has in storage that might be of use. Nagy announced that the benches are a nice addition and perhaps the

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Commission could add another bench or two to the area. Ryan added that there has been very positive feedback about the bridge itself.

Kaszeta made a note regarding the west end of the bridge and that the handrails stick out past the supporting rails. He is concerned that if anything will warp or break, this will likely be it. He added that this could probably be quickly fixed with a saw.

*Town Trail Maps* – N/A

### **OTHER BOARD ACTIVITIES**

*Miller Pond Bridge update* – Chairman Hocker noted that the bridge construction has commenced. The outbound lane is currently closed. He added that they will likely begin on the inbound lane in the next couple of weeks. He also noted that the Flewelling property is now showing a new real estate sign.

Hocker reminded the Commission that he met with Jeremy Turner regarding the Forest Management Plan. He also talked to him about the Smith lot; this will be added to his calendar for October (potential maintenance cut). Wood questioned when the cut would take place and the type of equipment that would be used to complete this work. Wood added that the Plan did not include a description regarding how the trees would be taken down and leaving and/or creating trails. Chairman Hocker would like to invite Turner to the September meeting to discuss the action plan. Hocker also spoke to Turner about the possibility of a chestnut tree grove in the town forest and what materials would be needed to implement this. Hocker is considering 30-35 American Chestnuts (or hybrids). Additional materials needed would be chicken wire and able bodies to help plant them. Wood questioned how expensive this planting would be; would there be new soil added? Chairman Hocker answered that there is still a bit of research that he will need to do regarding the price of each tree. The projected time period for this is next spring (April 2017).

*Butternut property sale* – Chairman Hocker addressed the issue of the properties owned by Fish and Game, and others by private owners. One set of parcels in particular is being sold to Fish and Game by a private owner, but there are some prohibitions in the easement that affect the payment of taxes and the rights to timber the land. Fish and Game are seeking to overturn these statutes. They would like the easements modified to remove the restrictions. Nagy questioned which section this was primarily comprised of and Chairman Hocker replied that it is located between Cole Pond Trail and Butternut Trail. A small area around Butternut Pond is also part of the property. Chairman Hocker noted that the property in question includes Tax Map 205, Lots 1-4. During the course of the walk of this property, Hocker noticed that there was some cutting going on on the Hastings property. Hocker reported this and an intent to cut was filed soon thereafter.

Wood questioned if a date had been set for the Grantham Village School visit/walk-through and it was noted that no one has yet heard from them regarding this visit. Wood went on to question if the \$100 payment had been made to the Upper Valley Land Trust and Chairman Hocker replied that he had not

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yet received confirmation of this. He will continue to work to receive more clarity regarding what is being paid and also current budget expenditures. Wood also addressed the issue of future activities that have been placed on hold and when they can be scheduled; including other bridges and abutments, the purchasing of land, and/or bringing a town warrant to authorize a bond for future land purchases. Chairman Hocker noted that if the (potential) new owner of the Flewelling property was amenable, perhaps some funding could be used to help clean up the property.

### **HANDOUTS / ACTIVITIES**

Cost spreadsheet provided by Chairman Hocker

Brookside Park Bridge sign draft provided by Chairman Hocker

Receipts for reimbursement provided by Kaszeta, Ryan and Wood

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Hocker asked if there was any further business. There being none, Wood moved to adjourn the meeting and Nagy seconded the motion.

*The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.*

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Grantham Conservation Commission will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room on Monday, August 15, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



Nikki Arsenault, Secretary