

# Grantham Conservation Commission

## MINUTES

OCTOBER 17, 2016

300 ROUTE 10 SOUTH, GRANTHAM, NH

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Chairman David Wood
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission
<b>FACILITATOR</b>	Chairman David Wood
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Nikki Arsenault
<b>BOARD ATTENDEES</b>	David Wood, Richard Hocker, Rich Kaszeta, Dennis Ryan, Laura Nagy, Sue Buchanan
<b>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR OTHER BOARDS &amp; COMMITTEES</b>	Jamielynn Garland, Jeremy Turner

Chairman David Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 7:02 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.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 MEETING**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
	Chairman Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft meeting minutes for the September 19, 2016 meeting. Kaszeta noted that he agreed with the edits that Buchanan sent via email. Nagy questioned if there is actually a Grantham Food Pantry; after some discussion it was noted for the record that this should actually be noted as the Newport Food Pantry. Nagy noted a second correction which was also in Buchanan's corrections; the full name for Ausbon Sargent is the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust.	
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
	There being no additional changes or additions to the minutes, Chairman Wood noted that he would entertain a motion to accept the September 19, 2016 minutes as amended.	
	A motion was made by Kaszeta to approve the September 19, 2016 minutes as amended by the Commission; second by Hocker. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.	
	<b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b>	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Meeting minutes for the September minutes will be updated as noted above; the minutes for this meeting will be completed within five business days.	Nikki Arsenault	10/24/2016

**NEW BUSINESS – JAMIELYNN GARLAND / 250<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION COMMITTEE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
	Grantham 250 <sup>th</sup> Celebration – Garland announced that it would be a good idea to include Brookside Park in the planning of the upcoming 250 <sup>th</sup> celebration events. Garland announced that one option could be a scavenger hunt themed walk with activities and prizes directed toward a variety of age groups. The 250 <sup>th</sup> celebration will kick off next year in June 2017. Anytime this coming summer will work; this event could be repeated each year. The actual date of the 250 <sup>th</sup> kickoff will be June 5 <sup>th</sup> or the 8 <sup>th</sup> and will be a big weekend. Buchanan wondered if the first weekend after the school breaks for the summer might be a good weekend. Nagy added that the third week of June might be a good time. Garland noted that if they waited until after the fourth of July weekend there would be more time to advertise the event(s). After some discussion it was decided that July 8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup> would be a good weekend for this event. Garland also suggested a "ducky" race; the ducks would start at Brookside Park and "race" down the stream. Wood questioned if it might be a good idea to have the kids make boats and use the crafted boats to race. People expressed their interest in this idea. Garland continued that she is planning a fishing derby in May; there will be trout added to the water for this occasion. Wood questioned if, separate from the Brookside Park activities, should there be planned family hikes organized throughout the	

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summer? Garland suggested that a flyer or schedule be sent home in GVS's "go home" bag including the schedule of events/hikes that they decide on. Wood noted that the GCC should give Garland a plan by May in order to be included.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
The plans and discussion for this topic will continue over the coming months as plans are developed and finalized.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>		
Develop a timeline of events that GCC will host/sponsor/plan	GCC	May 2016

### OLD BUSINESS – STATUS OF SMITH LOT – JEREMY TURNER

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Jeremy Turner was introduced to the Commission and provided copies of the timber harvest pre-plan to the GCC members.		
Following some discussion about Brookside park and the trails, Turner noted that it would be free to have the county forester come and measure the possibly largest white pine in the county on the trail. Wood questioned if the story about the Horne family is available and Ryan noted that in the most recent issue of the Eastman magazine there is a write-up about this.		
Turner noted for the record that the Commission engaged him originally in 2010 to complete a resource inventory and forest plan for the Town Forest. This was completed and then over time the Smith lot was conserved, and the conservation easement required a forest plan. Hocker added that following a Town Meeting, the decision was made regarding Smith lot. Turner noted that this plan has a heavy focus on wildlife conservation and recreation; with this in mind, the harvest pre-plan was created. With respect to the apple orchard, Turner noted that there are still some old apple trees there and there is the potential for an orchard; the dotted line on the map indicates where the skidder trail would be; following a comment from Turner regarding the presence of ash trees, Wood confirmed with Turner that he would prefer to take the ash trees out. The implementation of this type of forestry would involve low grade market wood. While he doesn't believe that the harvest would be very profitable, Turner also added that he didn't think there would be any out of pocket costs. He noted that the land is drier now than it's ever been, so the question is whether to wait for the frozen ground or to work on the dry ground as it is currently. He offered to ask around to inquire as to what the level of interest is in the market. Buchanan asked what the risk of impact is if the project were to be completed now versus during the winter months. Turner replied that the risk of impact and compaction are currently mostly with regard to machine compaction; although the current lack of wet ground would create a similar impact now as it would if the work was completed in the winter. This would also be a currently small project; he doesn't believe this project would take more than 2 weeks to complete. Wood questioned what happens to the low grade market in the winter and Turner replied that it is more robust. However, Turner also noted that the biomass market cannot currently compete with other energy source markets; 6 months to 12 months from now the market will likely not be as good as it is now. Wood questioned the downside of doing nothing now and Turner replied that doing nothing is perfectly fine for the ecosystem. Buchanan noted that there could be a positive gain for recreation purposes and that the project would clear some ground, provide some new trails, even if it did not provide any monetary gain. It may be easier to balance out the cost of the project by doing it now rather than later. Hocker noted that there are a number of older white pines that will likely need to be taken care of. Wood questioned if it was appropriate to put American Chestnut trees in the area; Turner suggested taking a look at the Old Fairgrounds at Brookside Park as a location for these trees. He further suggested looking into the proper slope for this variety of tree. It may be best to plant them up the hill from the apple trees (saplings).		
For the Smith lot trail, Turner outlined a potential path to follow and Wood added that the option to cut a loop trail would be a good idea. Kaszeta noted that it might be a good idea to connect the Faye Road trail to these trails to increase use and accessibility. Wood questioned what the best way would be to remove stumps and Turner replied that it should be wrapped into the entire job to avoid bringing in machines for a second time to remove the leftover stumpage; he noted that he could make this clear to the individuals interested in taking on the job. Following some additional discussion, the Commission's consensus was that now is the time to do this project.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
Chairman Wood noted that he would entertain a motion to authorize Jeremy Turner to implement as proposed the harvest pre-plan of 2014 as appropriately revised for 2016 and to move forward with implementing this plan, pending receipt of the cost breakdown for this work.		
A motion was made by Buchanan to this affect; second by Kaszeta. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.		
<b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>		
Turner will work with his contacts to obtain price quotes for this project.	Jeremy Turner	

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## MILLER POND BRIDGE / AMERICAN CHESTNUT GROVE

DISCUSSION		
<p>Chestnut Grove – Hocker noted that blight-resistant trees are not currently available. Nagy asked how many trees would be needed for this project and Hocker replied that 30 trees would be a good number to aim for. Each tree would need approximately 60 feet of space. They will also need to be fenced, with periodic watering for the first year. Turner added that the Fairgrounds would be a good location for an arboretum. Hocker added that there is no shortage of food for wildlife in Grantham; chestnuts are his ideal choice because they produce well every year. Following a comment from Ryan, Hocker added that the location of these trees does not really matter. Wood added that the location of the forest may need to reflect that there are two thoroughfares. Turner noted that it would be helpful in this case to engage a wildlife specialist to weigh in on this subject. Hocker added that it was also a possibility to have a smaller orchard. Wood concluded that until the blight-resistant trees are available there is reason to wait to plant them.</p> <p>Forest Management Plan discussion for the Flewelling property – Turner noted that the plan itself is good as is the scheduling. Who is going to implement it and how? This is where he always run into problems. Has the work been compliant with the forest management plan? He believes Steve Walker gets into a tough spot with respect to enforcing as the onus is on the landowner because this is an older pre-L chip easement. Speculative liquidation – Michael Carter cut a lot of value out of the property – then the ice storm hit and the damage on the Sherwood Forest was substantial. Hocker added that with the updated bridge there may be a cutting application submitted soon. Wood asked what the Town needs to do if Miner submits a cutting application. Turner noted that because the Town owns the easement, he would recommend working with Steve Walker to make sure the work is done appropriately.</p> <p>Evaluation of Miller Pond utilization – There are several camping areas and also a lean-to; these areas have been encroached upon by shrubbery... the owner ... it's going to require going to DES to ask to modify the wetland. Move forward to put in the bridge and open up the trail that allows people to get into the trail ... without encroaching on the property... what is the boundary? It is not known at this point. Hocker added that there is a pin that should be a straight line to the garage. They are arguing that the proposed trail and bridges would cut ... Buchanan asked if a surveyor needs to be hired and the group concurred that this was worth doing. The corner point at the garage – Turner noted that a company in Plymouth - Foreco (Tom Hahn) has already completed a survey on this property.</p> <p>The Faye Dam / Faye Road – is this road a public highway? There may be a right of way – the Town records would reflect this. Wood noted that with respect to the Miller Pond dam, it's been six years.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time.		

## SHORLINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS

DISCUSSION		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time.		

## NEW BUSINESS – REIMBURSEMENTS

DISCUSSION		
Reimbursements requested by Hocker and Wood.		

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<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
A motion was made by Ryan to approve the reimbursement of Hocker in the amount of \$165; seconded by Nagy. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.		
<b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b>		
A motion was made by Nagy to approve the reimbursement of Wood in the amount of \$102; seconded by Hocker. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.		
<b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None at this time.		

**NEW BUSINESS – HASTINGS / SHAGOURY LAND ADJACENT TO BUTTERNUT POND**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Contact Steve Walker	Chairman Wood	Next meeting

**NEW BUSINESS – GRANTHAM HEALTH FAIR and TRAIL WORK AT GVS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None at this time.		

**NEW BUSINESS – FLEWELLING WALK DATE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None at this time.		

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## NEW BUSINESS – BOND AUTHORIZATION

DISCUSSION		
CONCLUSIONS		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Initiate conversation with land owner.	Selectman Brown	TBD

## NEW BUSINESS – UPDATES FROM SELECTMAN BROWN

DISCUSSION		
CONCLUSIONS		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Obtain list of steps for the formal trail adoption process.	Selectman Brown	TBD

## NEW BUSINESS – UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS		

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

***The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:07p.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, November 21, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



Nikki Arsenault