

APPROVED

Town of Grantham
Grantham Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2010

Chairman Richard L. Hocker called the Conservation Committee to order on Monday, December 20, 2010 at 7:00 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; Andy Eastman; Merle Schotanus; Jeremy Turner; Joe Watts; Lindsey Dixon; Kristina Burgard.

Members of the Public: Grantham Town Administrator, Becky Newton.
Selectman Warren Kimble-arrived after meeting started

Approval of Minutes

Chair Hocker asked the Committee members if they had reviewed the minutes from the November 15, 2010 meeting, were any additions/corrections to be made. *There being none motion by Merle Schotanus and second by Joe Watts to approve the minutes of November 15, 2010. **Unanimously Approved***

New Business

Hocker stated that Town Administrator Becky Newton wanted to speak to the Committee.

Newton stated that she had a visit from Don Miner today regarding the alternate route plan the GCC (Grantham Conservation Commission) was discussing last fall with regards to his property. Newton stated that Miner was interested in mitigating some results to do with noise from the snowmobiles coming right by his house early in the mornings, etcetera. Newton stated that Miner realizes that the snow machines do have access through his property due to an easement in the deed, however Newton said she is trying to help ease the peace with the situation and let Miner know she would look into the situation for him.

Andy Eastman stated that he had put together a map adding a trail where there already had been some logging work done on the property and that trail could be an alternate route if an access/snow machine bridge were to be built. Newton stated that she thought she had heard something about this. Eastman stated that he was not sure if the Blue Mountain Snowdusters would be interested in this or not although there had been some discussion. Eastman stated that it looked like the impact across the wetlands would be minimal and the access to existing trails not too long. Eastman said that Miner had indicated some interest in helping out by building a trail that was not in that particular area, but in the location that was mitigated for the Town Hall.

Eastman said that this entrance might be better for the snowmobiles and foot traffic to access the area as well in the spring.

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Jeremy Turner asked Eastman if the area in question was referring to the Smith Lot. Eastman stated yes, this area discussion had been brought up at past GCC meetings with a possible future parking area that was desperately needed. Turner stated for the record that he is very familiar with the property; grew up in the area and knew the Flewelling's very well, to his knowledge the snow machine trail has not been exercised since Miner has been living there and does not believe there have been snow machines going by while he's trying to sleep.

Schotanus and Eastman both stated that only his (Miner) own snow machine was using the trail by his property. Turner went on to explain to Newton that since the beginning the GCC has been a part of this discussion and certainly willing to cooperate and they do not want to give up any rights and felt they can understand Miner's standpoint to. Newton stated that she understands and that the Miner's agree to disagree about the status of the road and it is kind of counter productive to litigate if there is an alternate way that she was all for it. Eastman stated that he felt that it was essential for Miner to share in this.

Hocker stated GCC does have some money and that more than a year ago he did talk to the Blue Mountain Snow Dusters and they were willing to assist with the bridge, but the bridge was going to cross the old dam site and this was a different location and the GCC has not revisited this issue. Hocker stated that Don Miner did agree at the GCC meeting this past Sept./Oct. to provide a letter to the GCC stating what their (Miner and his wife Karyn) thinking was on this. Newton stated that Miner had apologized for not getting back to the GCC due to personal issues.

Eastman said there was a sign up on the intersection of Leavitt Pond Road and Faye Road, (which goes by Miner's house) stating that no one was allowed on Faye Road because he is logging. Eastman went on to say that if he plans on leaving this sign up, which prohibits anyone from using that trail because he is quote unquote logging, then the GCC has gained nothing. Newton said she understood. Hocker stated that the sign had been up there the last three (3) or four (4) years and Eastman said there would be no value whatsoever in putting a bridge in at this time. Newton said she understood the GCC's point. Newton also asked the GCC members who their contact person was for the Blue Mountain Snow Dusters.

Schotanus said Don Holmes is the president and/or Steve Miller and Warren Legacy were also contacts and had been trying to get this trail set up to including building that bridge. Schotanus said that it was his understanding that the discussion broke down because of the stand Don Miner was taking.

Further discussion ensued amongst GCC members and Newton.

Smith Lot Forest Management Plan – Approval of Invoice:

When Meadowsend LLC was contacted, Laura French indicated the bill had been paid in full at the start of the work.

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Wien Property Sale Proceeds

Chair Hocker stated that from what he could determine and asked Newton to correct him if he was wrong that the monies that went towards the purchase of the ball fields from the property came out of the general fund. Newton stated that was her understanding. Kristina Burgard was recognized and noted that in fact \$140,000 of the original purchase price came from a Capital Reserve Fund and the remainder from the General Fund. Hocker said what he proposed, if the GCC would consider, was asking the town if they would be kind enough to redirect the proceeds from the sale of the Wien house to the GCC trust fund with the idea behind that to developing a pool money they could leverage towards future conservation efforts. Hocker went on to say for some time now the GCC has been trying to conserve the Romano property, or at least move in that direction. Hocker said that the GCC has not made a lot of progress yet after doing an appraisal on the properties that are for sale including the two (2) houses have approximate value of \$1.1 million. Discounting the value of the properties containing two (2) houses, the land's value is approximate \$700,000. The property is currently on the market for \$3.8 million Hocker said. After discussion, the GCC membership voted to have a warrant item in the amount of \$100,000 developed by Kristina Burgard and forwarded to the Selectmen asking for their recommendation to adopt at the town meeting. The funds if approved would be placed in the Land Conservation Trust Fund.

Conservation request for Planning for Conservation continued discussion – Evaluation of received proposals:

The GCC received 4 proposals in response to its request for proposals to accomplish a wetlands inventory for the town of Grantham. At this point in time the Commission engaged in a discussion of the proposals using a summary table prepared by Andy Eastman (attached) as a guide to reaching a decision as to the winner of the contract. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Commission voted to award the contract to Ecosystem Management Consultants located in Center Sandwich, NH.

HANDOUTS

None

AJOURNMENT

Chair Richard Hocker asked the members if anyone had any more questions. There being none, a motion was made by Andy Eastman and second by Joe Watts ***the committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.***

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on January 17 in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha M. Menard
Clerk

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Item	EMC	Normandeau
Lead Scientist	Rick Van de Poll	Sara Allen
Costs for 1 Acre and Larger	\$12,500**	\$13,360
Costs for 2 Acre and Larger	\$11,750**	\$12,710
Previous prime wetland inventories	Amherst, C. Harbor*, Meredith*	Non Listed
Most Recent Data for wetlands map	2010 infared photography	
Roadside surveys	3 survey days included	some wetlands & vernal pools
Wetland Evaluation method	Revised NH method	US Army corps of Engrs
Estimated evaluations to be performed	40	Maximum 20
Will use volunteers	yes	Apparently not
Volunteer training sessions	4 sessions included	not included
Vernal pools	not mentioned	some
Fieldwork 1 acre & larger \$	\$2,750	\$6,375
Landowner permission		

**Totals include extended scope:
 1)Presentation final public forum
 2)Warrant article presentations
 3)Coordination with state

* Prime wetlands accomplished

Item	D WTW	E VHB
Lead Scientist	John Severance, Elsie Lawson	
Costs for 1 Acre and Larger	\$17,680	\$39,555
Costs for 2 Acre and Larger	\$14,800	\$39,595
Previous prime wetland inventories	Lancaster, Columbia, Stratford	Hudson, Chichester
Most Recent Data for wetlands map	2009 aerial photos	
Roadside surveys		
Wetland Evaluation method	ACOE onsite method ??	2010 draft
Estimated evaluations to be performed	?	25
Will use volunteers	apparently not	apparently not
Volunteer training sessions	not included	not included
Vernal pools	will document those found	mentioned under
Fieldwork 1 acre & larger \$	\$10,380	\$17,650
Landowner permission	by GCC	