

# Grantham Conservation Commission

## MINUTES

FEBRUARY 5, 2018

300 ROUTE 10 SOUTH, GRANTHAM, NH

MEETING CALLED BY	Chairman David Wood
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission
FACILITATOR	Chairman David Wood
NOTE TAKER	David Wood – from recording
COMMISSION MEMBERS	Sue Buchanan, Rich Kaszeta, Laura Nagy, Dennis Ryan, & David Wood
ABSENT	Richard Hocker, John Larrabee
OTHER VISITORS	

Chairman David Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:05 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 18, 2017 MEETING

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft minutes of the regular meeting for the December 4, 2017.		
There being no changes to the minutes, Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the November minutes. A motion was made by Kaszeta; seconded by Buchanan. 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 this meeting will be prepared from the recording	Wood	2/12/2018

### OLD BUSINESS – TOWN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN – LAURA FRENCH

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
The final version of the 2017 FMP for the Town Forest has been received from Laura French and copies forwarded to members of the GCC and selectmen. Ryan noted that the final plan omitted the recommended sequencing of the goals as worked out by the GCC. Nagy reported that there has been no response to her inquiry about the use of new technologies to site trails. Wood reported that John Roe at the Upper Valley Land Trust believes small clearings can be better for wildlife than the 4-10 acre clearing recommended in the FMP. Discussion followed concerning sponsorship of a Town-wide meeting discussing the value of clear cut areas.		
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	Explore the sponsorship of a Town wide meeting on the value of clearings for wildlife to include a discussion of the comparative value of large vs small clearings,	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Discuss options for a town-wide meeting with stakeholders	Wood	3/5/2018

### OLD BUSINESS – SHORELINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS – NAGY

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
No new applications have been received.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None		

OLD BUSINESS – HUNT FOR GRANTHAM HISTORY – KASZETA / NAGY

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Kaszeta is accumulating photos and GPS coordinates of the various locations for the scavenger hunt and distributed examples of the pins to be used as prizes. The goal is to get folks out to see the interesting locations in town.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Complete compilation of routes, GPS coordinates and photos	Kaszeta	May, 2018
Coordinate with GVS and Lebanon Schools	Buchanan	3/5/2018

OLD BUSINESS – DRAGONFLY HUNT - NAGY

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Dates for a dragonfly hunt have been set with Andy Degan from Ausbon-Sargent for July 31 with a rain date of Aug 2. The location has yet to be determined. Degan would like to use the Schwartz property on Stocker Pond. If that is unavailable, Wood suggested alternatives locations, including the finishing ponds in Eastman's John's Glen and the pond below Grantham Indoor.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Ask Schwartz for permission to use their lot 236-019	Wood	3/5/2018
If necessary, consider alternative locations	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – PURCHASE OF HASTINGS PROPERTY – WOOD

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
On Jan 18, Wood submitted a letter to the Selectmen asking for a legal opinion concerning the rights of use of the Leavitt Hill Rd to be gained by the purchase of the property. The query was forwarded to the town attorney by Melissa White. No response has been received.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Obtain legal comment of rights of access	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – SMITH LOT LOGGING – WOOD

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Turner has obtained all the necessary approvals and will be meeting with the logger at the Smith Lot on Feb 8 to review plans. Initiation of the harvest remains weather dependent.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None		

OLD BUSINESS – CHESTNUTS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Wood reported attending a meeting with Hocker in Ringe concerning the backcross of Chinese chestnuts onto the American chestnut. The intercross of the third backcross is now becoming available. While these trees are able to withstand an experimental infection, the growth form of the mature trees is not yet know. Wood recommended that Hocker try to obtain a few of the backcross trees to plant on the Smith Lot together with the Dunstan chestnuts already approved by the GCC.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Explore purchase of backcross chestnuts	Hocker	3/5/2018

OLD BUSINESS – FLEWELLING EASEMENT VIOLATION – WOOD

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Wood reported that on Jan 18 he requested that the Selectmen pursue correcting the violation of the easement on Sherwood Forest. In support, he has forwarded the letter from the Office of Energy and Planning expressing their concern. No response has been received as yet from the town's attorney. Buchanan and Kaszeta recommended contacting NHACC for advice.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Contact NHACC regarding procedures	Wood	3/5/2018
Encourage action by the Selectmen regarding easement violation	Wood	3/5/2018

OLD BUSINESS – REVIEW OF GCC FILES - WOOD

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Wood has not yet reviewed the GCC files at Town Hall.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	Files require review.	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Review files with Nagy	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – TRAIL FINDER - WOOD

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Draft Trail Finder web pages for the Croydon Turnpike, Brook Trail and Little Mt Washington hike prepared by Emma Tutein at UNH were reviewed. As yet, these pages are non-public.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	Numerous recommendations were made.	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Discuss potential revisions with Tutein	Wood	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – CORRESPONDENCE - WOOD

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wood announced that he has received a request for information about the Town Forest and Smith Lot required for Tree Farm designation. The information was returned and accepted.</li> <li>- A Dredge and Fill was approved by the town for repair of the Rt 114 bridge and is in progress.</li> <li>- In January, an Expedited Dredge and Fill request for Pleasant Rd was approved by Wood for the GCC after approval by GCC members via email. The application was rejected by NHDES with the request for additional information about abutters.</li> <li>- Wood reviewed a report of the GCC activities submitted in January to the NHACC largely repeating the text of the annual report for town meeting.</li> </ul>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None		

NEW BUSINESS – PROPOSED CHANGES TO WETLAND REGULATIONS - WOOD

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Larrabee notified the GCC of a request for public comment on a proposal updating NH's wetland regulations. Wood identified several regulations of potential interest to the GCC. After discussion, items Env-Wt 309.02, 510.02 and 307.14 were identified as potentially worthy of comment.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Discuss the items of interest with NHDES	Wood	ASAP
If appropriate, draft comments for GCC approval at next meeting	Wood	3/5/2018

NEW BUSINESS – GCC GOALS FOR 2018 - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
The list of potential goals for the GCC for 2018 were reviewed and modified.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Add goals to minutes	Wood	2/12/2018

NEW BUSINESS – SPNHF MEMBERSHIP - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
A membership request was received from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests. Wood suggested renewing the membership of the GCC at the Sustainer lever at \$55. A motion to approve the above expenditure was made by Kaszeta and seconded by Nagy. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.		
<b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Initiate payments	Wood	2/9/2018

**ADJOURNMENT**

Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Kaszeta moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. and Buchanan seconded the motion.

***The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.***

**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, March 5, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wood

# 2018 Grantham Conservation Commission Goals

(Draft Feb 5, 2018)

## Smith Lot:

- Complete timber harvest
- Purchase and plant chestnuts
- Complete slash cleanup and layout of loop trail

## Brookside:

- Refresh trail

## Town Forest:

- Blaze trails & boundary
- Survey planned clear cut areas for invasives / clear as appropriate
- Approve cutting plan

## Flewelling:

- Resolve of easement issues with owner

## Land Acquisition:

- Finalize decision on Hastings property
- Explore easement on lot 211-011

## Trail Mapping:

- Launch maps of Town Forest and Flewelling property on Trail Finder
- Prepare drafts of other Grantham trails for discussion with land owners

## Publicity:

- Sponsor Dragonfly hunt
- Organize scavenger hunt
- Participate in Olde Home Day
- Sponsor town-wide meeting on forest management for wildlife

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