

**Town of Grantham  
Grantham Conservation Commission**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 31, 2015**

Chairman Hocker called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, August 31, 2015 at 7:00 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, Susan Buchanan, Laura Nagy, David Wood, and Rich. Kaszeta

**Members of the Public:** None

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Approval of Minutes for the July 20, 2015 Meeting**

Hocker asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modifications to the draft minutes for the July 20, 2015 meeting. Several changes were made including the addition of Rich Kaszeta as being present as a member.

*A motion was made by Wood to approve and accept the July 20, 2015 minutes as amended; second by Nagy. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.*

***Unanimously Approved & Accepted***

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Annual Walk of Flewelling property:***

As required by the State of NH it is time for the annual monitoring walk of the property. The members discussed their availability for the walk since a date that would help the owner be present was a condition. Three members agreed that they could be available on !2 Sept. This information was conveyed to the Town Administrator.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Brookside Park**

**Trail work**

Trail work was accomplished on 31 August with another day of work scheduled for 11 Sept.

**Bridge Discussion**

As a prelude to the discussion Hocker passed out a copy of the Commissions current financial situation. The current use account funds could, if needed, be used to supplement the Byrne Foundation dollars for the purchase of the bridge or materials.

Kaszeta summarized his evaluations of the options available for a bridge of 38 plus feet set across Skinner Brook. His findings were contained in a 6 page handout with 2 pictures of example bridges. Given the specifications of the bridge we need to build, two companies offer bridges which will meet those specs. Current estimated cost are high but Kaszeta thought that those estimated would come down based on our refined specs.

### **Stocker Pond Access**

At the July 20 meeting Brown briefed the Commission on his meeting with Town Administrator Melissa White and the landowner who owns the access point to Stocker Pond that was recently posted “no trespassing.” The land was closed to the public due to illegal shooting, drinking, and littering on the property which raised landowner concerns about liability. Brown asked the Commission to consider providing funds for a gate to the property once a cost could be determined. At this meeting the Commission agreed to appropriate a sum of not more than \$300 to pay for the gate and support materials.

Nagy made a motion to appropriate a sum of \$300 toward the purchase of the gate and supplies. Seconded by Wood. Funds to come from current operating funds.

***Unanimously Approved .***

### **Planning for Roadside Ash tree inventory**

Wood discussed the efforts underway in Eastman and asked if the Commission wanted to actively pursue this effort at this time given the work in progress in Brookside Park. The majority of the members suggested that this be tabled until next year. Hocker agreed to drive the roads of Grantham to get a feel of the magnitude of the effort.

### **GCC New Member and Remaining Vacancies**

The Commission currently has 2 vacancies. Also based on information supplied by the Town Clerk, Laura Nagy is still an alternate. It was decided that Nagy and Kaszeta be appointed as members of the Commission (Note-letters have been sent to the Town Administrator requesting appointment action). All members were requested to consider possible candidates for the Commission.

### **Planning for Town Trail map**

Wood again explained what was being done in Eastman and asked if it was a good idea if the effort should be expanded to Grantham. Given that the mechanism was in place to do so, it was agreed that the commission proceed with this effort. To accomplish the task the roads and trails

of town outside of Eastman would have to be GPS mapped with the info in suitable format sent to the UVLSRPC. A list of trails within Grantham should be prepared and shared by all members.

**Participation in Grantham Health Fair and Open House**

Scheduled for the morning of 10 October the commission agreed that it would be a good means of showcasing the recreation potential of the Town forest and Brookside Park. Hocker to show the maps etc available for the GCC display at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

*The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.*

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Grantham Conservation Commission will be held at 7:00p.m. in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room on Tuesday, September 22, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Hocker, Chair