

APPROVED

Town of Grantham Grantham Conservation Commission

MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2012

Chairman Richard L. Hocker called the Conservation Commission to order on Monday, April 16, 2012, at 7:13 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; Kristina Burgard; Joe Watts (*Alternate*); and David Wood (*Alternate*).

Absent: Merle Schotanus; Jeremy Turner; Lindsey Dixon

Members of Public: None

ADMINISTRATIVE

Approval of Minutes for 19 March 2012 Meeting

Chair Hocker asked the Commission members if there were any additions, corrections, or modifications to the draft minutes for the March 19, 2012 meeting.

Watts requested the following corrections: page 2, 1st full paragraph, line 7, delete “a” and insert “of”; page 5, 1st full paragraph, line 6, delete “doing”; and page 5, 3rd full paragraph, line 7, change “Watt” to “Watts”.

With no further corrections suggested, a motion was made by Watts to approve and accept the March 19, 2012 Minutes as amended; second by Burgard. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.

Unanimously Approved & Accepted

NEW BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Land Issues

Cote & Reney Properties

Chair Hocker reported that Schotanus met again with Todd McIntire to provide him with the guidance Mr. McIntire requested in connection with preparing a current use application for a portion of the Cote & Reney properties, which includes ~29 acres of wetlands. In addition, representatives from NH Fish & Game revisited the ~3.5-acre boat launch section and ~0.77-acre parcel that Mr. McIntire has indicated he'd like to sell or donate. Fish & Game appears to be

APPROVED

very interested in acquiring these pieces of land, and will be working with Mr. McIntire to see if they can reach mutually acceptable terms.

Chair Hocker reported that since Schotanus' meeting with Mr. McIntire, a current use application relating to the Cote & Reney properties was submitted to the Selectmen, but no action has been taken on it to date. The Commission agreed that is important for someone from the Commission to re-affirm to the Selectmen that the Cote & Reney properties lie in a very high conservation value area of Town, and are particularly valuable in connection with water resources. Chair Hocker will take the lead on this.

Chair Hocker noted that the next agenda item incorrectly referred to Smith Lot Activities. There is nothing to report on the Smith Lot at this time, and the agenda item should be the Hastings Lot Memorial.

Hastings Lot Memorial

Chair Hocker asked Watts to report on his inquiry into prices for various types of plaques and engravings in rock. Watts reported that a bronze plaque, approximately 8"x12", with a metal anchoring post costs about \$600. This type of plaque would need to be anchored in place by putting concrete in the post-hole. The cost for getting a similar size engraving on a rock that is taken to the engraver is about \$400. The third option of selecting a boulder on the site then having the engraver go to the site is the most expensive, and would include the \$400 plus the cost of getting the engraver and equipment out to the site, which in this case would be quite high. The Commission discussed the various options, and agreed that given the remote location of the site, the last option does not seem feasible. Chair Hocker tabled any final decision on the memorial until the next meeting when more members are present. In the interim, Hocker will speak with Upper Valley Land Trust to confirm that placing such a plaque on the Hastings parcel is acceptable to them and get their preferences regarding the form of the memorial.

Planning for Conservation

Continued Planning for Wetlands Inventory project – Next steps

Chair Hocker asked for any updates relating to the Wetlands Inventory project. Burgard noted she is aware that Dixon arranged a refresher training session for volunteers on Saturday, April 28th, starting at 9am, on the public portion of the Lower Eastman Brook wetlands evaluation unit. She is not able to report how many volunteers have responded to Dixon about attending the refresher training class.

Watts reported that he has received about 30 responses so far from the most recent mailing of access permission letters, which included 3 denials of permission and one returned letter requesting a correction in the recipient's name before they'd consider the permission request. Watts indicated that so far, it looks like overall we are getting about a 40% response rate to the mailings. He suggests we speak with Dr. Van de Poll about the average response that he sees in connection with these types of mailings, and the Commission agreed this would be helpful. The Commission also discussed using a large town-wide map with parcels shown to create a cumulative map of all the wetland evaluation units, and use color-coding to show where volunteers have permission to go (distinguishing those lots where the owner requested prior notice from those that do not require notice), those lots where permission was expressly denied,

APPROVED

and those where no response has been received to date. Chair Hocker indicated he has a suitable map that the Commission can use, and Burgard and Watts volunteered to modify that map to reflect the landowner responses received to date.

Burgard reported that in connection with Public Outreach, the soon-to-be-released issue of *Eastman Living* will contain a Wetlands Inventory Update article, and she has confirmed with the editor that an article summarizing the Inventory results will be submitted for the Fall issue. Since the deadline for that issue is in August, Burgard noted that the Commission would need to keep Dr. Van de Poll on schedule regarding processing the evaluation results if we want to publish a list of potential prime wetlands in the Fall issue. With regard to the e-Newsletter, Burgard noted she is working on items for the next issue scheduled for release in May, and queried whether any other Commissioners had pieces they'd like to add to the newsletter. There were none. Burgard noted that she is working on scheduling several walks and talks throughout the summer and early fall.

Burgard also noted that it would be valuable to have a tent/table at Old Home Day with information about the Wetlands Inventory (e.g., status update, FAQs, etc.), and other conservation-related items. She also has some children's wetland species t-shirts that might be used for a free raffle. Burgard noted that while she can work on pulling together everything to go on the table, she is not able to staff the table that day as she is staffing another booth that day. All present agreed it was a good idea, and that planning would be addressed at the next meeting.

Burgard indicated since she is the Plant Sale chairperson, she cannot also work the Conservation Commission's Seedling Giveaway table, which will be set up at the Plant Sale on May 19th, starting at 9:00am. She asked for a volunteer to staff the table on May 19th, and if possible, someone to help separate and package the seedling's the day before. Chair Hocker volunteered to staff the table on May 19th, and Wood tentatively volunteered to help package seedlings on May 18th, subject to confirming his schedule.

Misc. Items – Earth Day Activities

Chair Hocker asked Burgard for an update on the plans for the Earth Day Cleanup scheduled for Sunday, April 22nd. Burgard advised that the Blue Mountain Snow Dusters are co-sponsoring the clean-up day, which will focus on cleaning up recyclables and trash along Croydon Turnpike, which in part travels through the Town Forest. The event begins at 9:00am on Sunday at two rallying points - one at the top of Walker Road and one at the warming hut at the top of Miller Pond Road. The Grantham Police were advised of the clean-up day activities and rallying points so that they know why cars will be parked along the sides of the roads. For the Miller Pond location, volunteers are asked to park in the school bus turn around, which we will mark with signs. We will be providing both contractor bags for trash and blue bags for recyclables. We will also have a number of pairs of inexpensive gloves available for volunteers to use should they not bring their own gloves.

The intent is to clean-up at least Croydon Turnpike from Walker Road down to the warming hut, and the warming hut all the way to the Grantham town lines around Chase Pond. Ideally, we'd also like to have volunteers heading from Walker Road towards Hartshorn Road. Blue Mountain Snow Dusters will be providing lunch for all volunteers at the warming hut following the clean-up

APPROVED

activities, and will have one or more trucks available for taking everything collected to the Transfer Station. Watts indicated that his family will be in Town that weekend, but if their schedule permits, they may work on the section between his place on Dunbar Hill Road and Walker Road. Burgard advised that she has both types of bags, which she can get to Watts in advance if needed.

Burgard reported that the Earth Day Clean-Up has been advertised in the Grantham News, the Upper Valley news calendar, and posters hung all around Town. In addition, an attempt was made to get postings on both the Town and Eastman TV stations, but these postings were denied in both instances. A discussion regarding the criteria for posting on each of these TV stations ensued. Burgard will follow-up with the Town regarding the criteria and deadlines for posting items on its TV station so that it is clear for future activities. With regard to Eastman, it appears the current standards are that the event must occur within Eastman's boundaries in order to be posted. Wood indicated that he might inquire further about Eastman's policy should an appropriate opportunity to do so arise.

HAND OUTS

Flyer - Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Volunteer Opportunity for broadband mapping and planning program.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on May 21, 2012, in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristina Burgard

Kristina Burgard
Grantham Conservation Commission

Volunteer Opportunity

New Hampshire Broadband Mapping & Planning Program



- Map rural residence locations (driveway entrances) to help determine where broadband (high-speed) Internet service is available and not available.
- Receive Free Training to use a handheld GPS or iPad for field data collection
- Gain hands-on experience with GPS data collection—work on your own or with a partner and set your own schedule
- Volunteer a minimum of four hours and receive future free loan of GPS/iPad for personal projects like mapping your stone walls, trails, a school project....

This is a 2012 spring-summer project with field work in specific towns around the UVLSRPC region.
Please contact Victoria Davis at vdavis@uvlsrpc.org or 603-448-1680.



UPPER VALLEY LAKE SUNAPEE
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION