

# Grantham Conservation Commission

## MINUTES

APRIL 1, 2019

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 Dave Wood
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	David Wood
<b>COMMISSION MEMBERS</b>	David Wood, Susan Buchanan, Dick Hocker, Rich Kaszeta, Craig McArt & Dennis Ryan
<b>ABSENT</b>	John Eylander
<b>SELECTBOARD REP</b>	Peter Garland
<b>OTHER VISITORS</b>	None

Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, April 1, 2019 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 MARCH 4, 2019 MEETING

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
<p>Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft minutes of the regular meeting of March 4, 2019. Several corrections were presented and updated real time during the meeting.</p>		
<p>Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes, as modified. A motion was made by McArt; seconded by Kaszeta. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.</p>		
<p><b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b></p>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Approved minutes will be submitted for posting	Wood	ASAP

### OLD BUSINESS – FISHER LOT

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
<p><b>Fencing:</b> Kaszeta has received most of the materials required, but again chose to defer a vote to reimburse.</p>		
<p><b>Dates for fencing and planting:</b> Kaszeta is considering Sat May 4 for the installation of the electric fencing; Wood is considering Friday May 3, Sun May 5 and Mon May 6 to dig holes for planting. The shipment of apples is expected on May 6.</p>		
<p><b>Cemetery:</b> Ryan confirmed the interest expressed by the Grantham Girl Scouts in renovating the cemetery. Inspection of the work to be done must await the disappearance of the snow.</p>		
<p><b>Chestnuts:</b> Hocker announced that Walmart expects to receive at least 50 trees around the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May. Buchanan volunteered the use of her truck for the pick-up. Separately we learned that Larrabee has purchased 2 Dunstan chestnuts funded by the Eastman Charitable Foundation. Wood asked Hocker to speak with Bob Brown of the New London CC concerning their purchase of American chestnuts for Shephard Point.</p>		
<p><b>Clover Hydroseeding:</b> Wood has received 3 lb each of Dutch White, Durana and Alice clover from Merit Seed. Liquid Lawn has been asked to be notified when the ground has warmed to 55°F at which time they will schedule hydroseeding. Kaszeta made a motion approving reimbursement of \$66.16 to be drawn from the GCC operating expenses; seconded by Buchanan. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.</p>		
<p><b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b></p>		
<p><b>Directional Sign:</b> After review of the alternative designs and sizes, the following were agreed upon:</p>		
<p>- 12" x 18" Pointer to NW Grantham Trails to be placed at the Rt 10 intersection with Miller Pond Rd, mounted vertically</p>		

- 18" x 24" Parking and distance to Town Forest to be placed at the entrance to the Fisher lot, mounted horizontally
- 12" x 16" Parking sign placed at the terminus of Miller Pond Rd, mounted vertically
- 12" x 16" "You are Here" sign for Four Corners, mounted vertically
- 5 12" x 16" "You are Here" signs for Sherwood Forest, mounted vertically

McArt reminded the commission that applications must be filed with the Planning Board for the directional signs. Wood noted that the town should be asked to remove the wooden sign posts across from Sherwood Forest. Kaszeta made a motion approving up to \$600 to be drawn from the Sherwood Forest fund for the purchase of the signs, posts and hardware; seconded by Buchanan. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.

**Unanimously Approved & Accepted**

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Learn about the Am chestnuts being planted by New London CC	Hocker	5/6/19
Schedule work times for fencing and planting	Kaszeta / Wood	4/28/19
Submit sign permit applications	Wood	ASAP
Initiate production of the approved directional signs	McArt	ASAP
Request removal of old posts on Miller Pond Rd	Wood	ASAP

**OLD BUSINESS – Shoreland Cutting Applications**

DISCUSSION		
No applications were received this month.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

**OLD BUSINESS – ROADSIDE FORESTRY**

DISCUSSION		
<p><b>Inventory of Hazardous Trees:</b> Wood announced that he had been contacted by Bob Allen, a supervisor at EverSource, and Randy Marcott, a forestry consultant to the company, regarding his inquiry into the policy of the company in preparation for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). They explained that EverSource divides its territory into four segments and rotates tree removal yearly; Grantham is scheduled for service this year. If a significant off cycle die off is reported, the company deals with it immediately even if the town is not scheduled for that year. Although EAB has yet to be reported in Sullivan County, EverSource is taking ash already suffering from ash yellow, an endemic disease. Because ash of more than 24" dbh rarely break, their standard procedure is to remove only the limbs that overhand power lines from larger trees. On the other hand, 6" ash often snap and are sufficiently large to damage lines. They are typically felled. If the town wishes to estimate the magnitude of the risk posed by a EAB-induced die off, they recommend hiring a forester or arborist to conduct a "windshield survey". The state has no funds to pay for such surveys or to remove trees. Given that a significant loss of ash is unlikely for several years, Wood opined that it might be prudent to wait a year to see what trees are removed by EverSource, then reconsider contracting a "windshield survey". The membership agreed.</p> <p><b>Scenic Road Designation:</b> Hocker noted that Dunbar Hill Road is relatively poor in ash and rich in sugar maple making it an especially scenic road in the fall. Similarly, Miller Pond Road is unusually attractive and might be considered for scenic road designation. Wood noted that RSA 231 places significant administrative hurdles on anyone wishing to remove trees from a scenic road. Given the expectation that EAB will soon kill virtually all ash trees and that EverSource will remove many of the dead trees at no expense to the town, Wood suggested that it may be unwise for the GCC to promote the designation of scenic road at this time lest the designation discourage EverSource's work. Because RSA 231 allows residents of any road to petition for the designation of their road as a scenic road; Wood opined that for now the GCC should allow the residents to take the lead rather than promoting the designation of any particular road. The membership agreed.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

**NEW BUSINESS – HYPERTHERM MEETING**

DISCUSSION		

Kaszeta and Ryan attended the meeting on sustainability at Hypertherm and reported that emphasis was placed on the replacement of old culverts with larger ones capable to handling the larger rainfalls now being experienced. There was also emphasis on the retention of open space and protection of wildlife corridors.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

#### NEW BUSINESS – AUSBON-SARGENT MEETING

DISCUSSION		
Wood reported on the meeting of local conservation commissions sponsored by Ausbon-Sargent. Of particular interest were New London's planting of chestnuts (see above), the issuance of new wetland regulations by DES, and the creation of overlay maps by the Sutton CC. Because the new wetland regulations have abbreviated the time allowed for dredge and fill review, Wood asked for a volunteer to assist in monitoring new application. Hocker volunteered. Wood also asked McArt to approach Dan Sundquist of the Sutton CC to learn more about the map overlays.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Request email alerts of dredge and fill application from Ken Story to Hocker and Wood	Wood	ASAP
Contact Sundquist about overlays	McArt	May 6, 2019

#### NEW BUSINESS – PUBLIC RELATIONS

DISCUSSION		
McArt discussed several modifications made to the brochure presented to the GCC last month. He agreed to get estimates for the printing and folding of 500 copies.		
Wood reported that he has placed an application to the UNHCE for funding of a BioBlitz on the Sawyer Brook Headwaters intended to involve the public in an inventory of the flora and fauna. Because many CCs have applied and only two will be funded this year, the chances of funding are small; however, because significant work would be demanded of the GCC were funding granted, Wood asked whether he should withdraw the application. There was general agreement not to withdraw.		
	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Obtain estimates for printing	McArt	5/6/2019

#### NEW BUSINESS – EARTH DAY

DISCUSSION		
Buchanan pointed out that the GCC has often discussed holding an event on Earth Day, which is April 22, 2019. Because April 22 is a school day, it was agreed to sponsor an "Earth Day" work project on Saturday April 27 clearing the trails in Brookside Park.		
	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Notify GVS and Grantham News of plan	Buchanan	ASAP

#### HANDOUTS / ACTIVITIES - NONE

#### ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Buchanan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. and Wood 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, May 6, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wood  
Grantham Conservation Commission Chair