

Grantham Conservation Commission

MINUTES

MAY 4, 2020

300 ROUTE 10 SOUTH, GRANTHAM, NH

MEETING CALLED BY	Chairman David Wood
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission - held electronically
FACILITATOR	Chairman David Wood
NOTE TAKER	David Wood
COMMISSION MEMBERS	Susan Buchanan, John Eylander, Richard Hocker, Rich Kaszeta, Craig McArt, Dennis Ryan & David Wood
ABSENT	
SELECTBOARD REP	None
OTHER VISITORS	Peter James

Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, May 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted electronically.

Wood opened the meeting with the following statement: "As Chair of the Grantham Conservation Commission, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically, and these reasons shall be reflected in the minutes.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are providing public access to the meeting by telephone and other electronic means. Notice of the meeting was given, as required by RSA 91-A, and included details for participating in the meeting. Members of the public will be invited to speak and recognized by the Chair. If, at any time during the meeting, there becomes a problem with access please call 603-863-6021 or email at: info@granthamnh.net.

Let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. Would each member state their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is also required under the Right-to-Know law."

Roll Call

Buchanan - present and alone
Eylander - present and alone
Hocker - present and alone
Kaszeta - present and alone
McArt - present and alone
Ryan - present and alone
Wood - present and alone

Are there others participating this evening? If so, please state your name and address.
Peter James, 28 Splitrock Rd. - present and alone

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 2, 2020 MEETING

DISCUSSION	
Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft minutes of the regular meeting of March 2, 2020.	
There being none, Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes as revised. A motion was made by Kaszeta; seconded by Eylander. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.	
<u>Roll Call</u> Buchanan - yes Eylander - yes Hocker - yes Kaszeta - yes McArt - yes Ryan - yes	

Wood - yes		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Approved minutes will be submitted for posting	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS - FISHER LOT

DISCUSSION		
<p>Cemetery: Peter James, member of the Cemetery Committee, stated that the committee considers the cemetery at the Fisher Lot to be both old and easily accessible making it worthy of improvement. Their plan is to erect a chain fence typical of cemeteries of the period together with a roughly 8.5 x 11 inch bronze plaque repeating the now indistinct inscription on the stone. As budget allows, they are prioritizing the project.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

OLD BUSINESS – TOWN FOREST

DISCUSSION		
<p>Revision of Miller Pond Rd/Mountain Rd: Wood announced that Consolidated Communications has submitted a suggested relocation plan for the pole that has been transmitted to Jeremy Turner for comment. Turner together with Heath Bunnell plan to visit the site on May 13. Wood hopes to join them.</p> <p>Eylander noted that at the last Selectmen's meeting the topic of liability for damages to the class IV portion of Miller Pond Road was discussed.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Notify Consolidated once Turner's comments are received.	Wood	ASAP
Review Selectmen's minutes concerning Miller Pond Rd	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – TRAIL FINDER

DISCUSSION		
<p>Correction to background Google map: No update at this time.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Confirm the desirability of publicizing the trails with Ausbon-Sargent	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – SHORELAND CUTTING APPLICATIONS

DISCUSSION		
<p>One application received and approved.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

OLD BUSINESS – BIOBLITZ PLANNING

DISCUSSION		
<p>Wood announced that the BioBlitz planned for May 30 has been cancelled. Possible dates in August and September will be considered. Everyone who had volunteered to assist on May 30 has been notified of the cancellation.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

OLD BUSINESS – ECF CRABTREE DONATION

DISCUSSION		
Wood announced that the date of delivery has not yet been determined. A hole has been dug and Shawn Phelps will be purchasing compost to improve the drainage of the soil.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

OLD BUSINESS – WETLAND MITIGATION

DISCUSSION		
Wood announced that the NHDES has approved Kennebec's expansion plan contingent upon contribution of \$178,944.89 to NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund. Grantham will be eligible to apply to draw from that fund for restoration of existing impaired wetlands, land acquisition and preservation, or construction of new wetlands.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

NEW BUSINESS – REAPPOINTMENT OF GCC MEMBERS

DISCUSSION		
Buchanan noted that she has been reappointed to the GCC, but has not yet been sworn in. Wood noted that he has not yet received notification of reappointment.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Follow up with Town Hall	Wood	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – MONITORING OF SHERWOOD FOREST

DISCUSSION		
Wood suggested that the 2020 monitoring of Sherwood Forest be done on May 30, weather permitting. He requested that GCC members wishing to take part notify him by email.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Finalize plans to monitor Sherwood Forest	Wood	May 25

NEW BUSINESS – SURVEY OF HAZARDOUS TREES

DISCUSSION		
Wood noted that in April 2019 the GCC discussed surveying ash that will not be removed by Eversource but might pose a hazard to Grantham roads when killed by EAB. Although the Town's budget might not allow the removal of the trees identified, he recommended beginning a survey using volunteers rather than a paid forester.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Investigate methods to provide GPS location of hazardous trees	Wood	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – INVASIVE PLANTS ON ROUTE 10

DISCUSSION		
Wood noted that, in its recent response to the NHDOT concerning the repair of the guard rail on route 10, the GCC added the caveat that it would survey the area for invasive plants. Until the leaves are fully out that will be difficult. Hocker, Kaszeta and Buchanan express an interest in taking part.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Set a date to survey for invasive plants	Wood	next GCC mtg

HANDOUTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Buchanan moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. and Kaszeta seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Buchanan - yes
Eylander - yes
Hocker - yes
Kaszeta - yes
McArt - yes
Ryan - yes
Wood - yes

NEXT MEETING

If permissible, 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, June 1, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wood
Grantham Conservation Commission Chair