

Grantham Conservation Commission

MINUTES

OCTOBER 7, 2019

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
COMMISSION MEMBERS	Susan Buchanan, John Eylander, Richard Hocker, Rich Kaszeta, Craig McArt, Dennis Ryan & David Wood
ABSENT	
SELECTBOARD REP	Peter Garland
OTHER VISITORS	None

Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, Oct 7, 2019 at 7:01 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 SEPT 2, 2019 MEETING

DISCUSSION		
Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft minutes of the regular meeting of Aug 5, 2019. Buchanan and McArt requested changes.		
Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes as revised. A motion was made by McArt; seconded by Ryan. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.		
Unanimously Approved & Accepted		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Approved minutes will be submitted for posting	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – Fisher Lot

DISCUSSION		
Refund of overpayment to Liquid Lawn: Wood announced that to date Liquid Lawn has resisted requests for reimbursement. Melissa White is planning to pursue the matter.		
Liming: Wood reported that Buckman provided an estimate of at least \$4,000 to lime the meadow. Wood recommended deferring liming until he can measure the pH and get a more accurate estimate of the amount of lime needed.		
Cemetery: Wood repeated his thanks to Ryan for the upgrading of the cemetery and complimented Ryan and McArt for the creation of a trail through the forest from the log landing to the cemetery. The trail passes the old cellar hole and well. Following a discussion of repair of the headstones, it was suggested to provide a description of the inscriptions at the cemetery. Ryan will follow up to decide how best to achieve that goal. Ryan has reused old fencing from the cemetery to screen the well. It was noted that a maple has fallen across the cellar hole. Wood promised to remove it. Hocker noted that benches and a picnic table have been left at the Fisher parking area and asked where they should be relocated. It was agreed to place them near the cemetery.		
Parking on Miller Pond Rd: Selectman Garland noted that there is no ordinance mandating a special restriction to parking along the portion of Miller Pond Road near the Fisher Meadow or Sherwood Forest.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Follow up with Liquid Lawn	White / Wood	ASAP
Recommend how to describe the inscriptions at the cemetery	Ryan	ASAP

Remove fallen maple	Wood	ASAP
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OLD BUSINESS – Town Forest Logging

DISCUSSION		
<p>Revision of Mountain Road: The Selectmen have determined that the intersection of Mountain Road and Miller Pond Road should be relocated around the private property it now crosses. A letter is being sent to the abutters of upper Miller Pond Road announcing the plan. The delay likely means that the logging of the Town Forest will be delayed until the winter of 2020-21.</p> <p>Garland noted that the select board must also work out the plans for repair of whatever damage is done to Miller Pond Road as a result of the logging operation.</p> <p>Invoice approval: An invoice was received from Meadowsend for \$32.50 for a 30 min telephone consultation with Jeremy Turner regarding the road relocation. Buchanan moved to approve payment of the invoice from the GCC Services & Supplies budget; seconded by Hocker. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.</p> <p>Unanimously Approved & Accepted</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Follow up on plans for road work	Wood / Garland	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – Trail Finder

DISCUSSION		
<p>Corrections to Trail Finder: The draft description of the trails in Sherwood Forest and the Town Forest were reviewed. Following the suggestion of numerous revisions, it was agreed that the revised description could go live.</p> <p>Correction to background Google map: Kaszeta noted that Google takes a long time to accept and revise its maps; however, Google provides a Google Maps Content Providers program that allows municipalities to upload detailed map data as ARCGIS shape files. Consequently, Kaszeta is reviewing the map for the entirety of Grantham rather than just that portion relevant to Trail Finder. Once complete he will work with the Town office to initiate the revision request through formal channels.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Forward revisions to Center for Community GIS and approve going live	Wood	ASAP
Complete the map revision request to Google	Kaszeta	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – Wetland Mitigation for Kennebec

DISCUSSION		
No new action.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

OLD BUSINESS – Shoreland Cutting Applications

DISCUSSION		
One cutting application has been received and was approved.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

NEW BUSINESS – Federal Grant for Conservation

DISCUSSION		
Buchanan summarized the opportunity to apply for a federal grant program designed for conservation. She considered whether the purchase of either the Hastings' property or Sawyer Brook Headwaters might qualify, concluding that neither meet the requirements largely because neither are currently a development threat.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Bring the grant opportunity to the attention of Ausbon Sargent	Buchanan	ASAP
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NEW BUSINESS – 2020-21 GCC Budget

DISCUSSION		
Wood asked for recommendations of expenditures to be included in the GCC budget request for 2020-21. It was recommended that that the budget for clerical help be reduced but not eliminated in order to retain the option to hire a clerk. Several supply and service items were recommended for inclusion.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Complete and submit GCC budget request	Wood	10/17/19

HANDOUTS

Wood passed out an announcement of a lecture by Professor Schor concerning the economic and environmental impact of climate change. The lecture is free at the Norwich Congregational Church at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, Oct 16.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Kaszeta moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 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, November 4, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wood
Grantham Conservation Commission Chair