

# Grantham Conservation Commission

## MINUTES

DECEMBER 19, 2016

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>	Richard Hocker
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Nikki Arsenault
<b>BOARD ATTENDEES</b>	Richard Hocker, David Wood (via phone), Rich Kaszeta, Dennis Ryan, Laura Nagy, Sue Buchanan, John Larrabee
<b>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR OTHER BOARDS &amp; COMMITTEES</b>	N/A

Richard Hocker called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, December 19, 2016 at 7:04 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 NOVEMBER 21, 2016 MEETING**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
	Hocker asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft meeting minutes for the November 21, 2016 meeting.	
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
	Nagy asked that Pam Hunt "at the New Hampshire Audubon Society" be added to page two of the meeting minutes. There being no additional changes or additions to the minutes, Hocker announced that he would entertain a motion to accept the November 21, 2016 minutes as amended.	
	A motion was made by Larrabee to approve the November 21, 2016 minutes as amended by the Commission; second by Nagy. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.	
	<b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b>	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Meeting minutes for the November 21, 2016 meeting will be updated as noted above; the minutes for this meeting will be completed within five business days.	Nikki Arsenault	12/26/2016

**OLD BUSINESS – 250<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION COMMITTEE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
	Nagy announced that she is working on the emerald ash borer project; she will report back at the next meeting. Wood suggested that the GCC consider sponsoring a snowshoe or cross country hike this winter. Nagy asked if it was ok to plan an event for this winter even though the actual 250 <sup>th</sup> events don't kick off until July 4 <sup>th</sup> weekend. Buchanan noted that she thought this was a good idea; Kaszeta agreed. Hocker noted that the Flewelling walk might be a good idea for this particular event. Buchanan noted that Jamielynn Garland has resigned as Activities Director and this is important to note for the record. Buchanan added that due to this fact Sheridan Brown will likely be the primary contact for the 250 <sup>th</sup> Committee for the time being. Returning to the topic of the Flewelling walk, Buchanan questioned when a good date might be to schedule this event. Following some discussion, the Commission decided that it was best to not schedule it during the GVS February vacation break. Wood asked if March 4 <sup>th</sup> or 5 <sup>th</sup> might work for the Flewelling walk and the Commission agreed that Sunday, March 5 <sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm would be the tentative date for this event; Hocker added that people can bring either their snowshoes or their skis; Wood said it would be important to have two leaders for each group.	
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	The plans and discussion for this topic will continue over the coming months as plans are developed and finalized.	

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ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Follow up on emerald ash borer project.	Nagy	January meeting
Determine status of planning for the Dragonfly Walk.	Brown	ASAP
Develop a timeline of events that GCC will host/sponsor/plan.	GCC	May 2016

### OLD BUSINESS – STATUS OF SMITH LOT – RICHARD HOCKER

DISCUSSION		
Hocker noted that Wood heard back from Jeremy Turner regarding the second logging company – the bridge underpass is too low for them as well. Wood added that there is one more company who has deferred for a few days in order to respond if they are able to do the work. Larrabee questioned if draft horses could be used, and Hocker replied that draft horses would likely only be used until the logs are loaded onto the truck. Wood questioned if it would be possible to fit the trucks under the underpass if one layer of logs is removed from the top of the load in the truck; this would be less economical, but as Hocker noted the Commission could even spend a small amount of money to cover cost if needed. Wood asked if Commission members would be ok with Wood approaching Turner with this idea, given that opening up the trails would certainly be of benefit to the Town; Nagy said she would be in favor of this assuming that Wood's assumption regarding the height of the truck is accurate. The general consensus of the Commission agreed on this as well.		
CONCLUSIONS		
The lot needs to be logged, and the follow-up discussed above is consistent with the forest management plan.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Wood will pursue this topic with Jeremy Turner and report back to GCC.	Wood	January meeting

### OLD BUSINESS – FLEWELLING LOT SURVEY – DAVID WOOD

DISCUSSION		
Wood announced that FORECO provided a verbal estimate of less than \$300 to resurvey the initial three pins within the Flewelling property along Faye Road. The commission deferred any plan to initiate the survey.		
CONCLUSIONS		
The objective of improving public access to the Miller Pond remains under discussion.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Follow-up with landowner for a potential spring/summer dam clean-up.	Brown	?

### OLD BUSINESS – SHORLINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS – LAURA NAGY / JOHN LARRABEE

DISCUSSION		
Nagy noted that there were no Shoreline Cutting applications last month.		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time.		

### OLD BUSINESS – PURCHASE OF CHESTNUT SEEDLINGS – RICHARD HOCKER

DISCUSSION
Hocker found a new company that sells two year old chestnut trees (40" tall) for \$28 each, minimum order is 50 trees because they are shipped by pallet. While this would be a larger number of trees than previously discussed, Hocker noted that the additional trees

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could be sold to other interested parties. If they wanted to go with saplings instead, they would have to worry about fencing, etc. This particular tree is a Dunston Chestnut tree which is a strain of tree which is highly resistant to blight. For a May delivery of trees, the order would need to be placed by March. Buchanan added that the Commission should make a final decision on this at the February meeting. Larrabee noted that the Commission could aim to sell some of the additional trees at the Garden Club's annual spring event. Wood reminded the group that the important part of having these trees is their ability to bear fruit and eventually produce blight resistant offspring. Hocker added that it would be nice to plant a couple of these trees in Brookside Park; he also noted that these trees start producing somewhere between 5 and 7 years of age.

### CONCLUSIONS

### ACTION ITEMS

### PERSON RESPONSIBLE

### DEADLINE

Obtain additional information about the ordering of these trees.

Hocker

February meeting

## NEW BUSINESS – AUTHORIZATION OF NEW SIGNAGE AT BROOKSIDE PARK

### DISCUSSION

With regard to the documents Wood sent via email to the Commission regarding the signs at Brookside Park, he made the following comments; The "This is Your Park" sign is at the entrance (parking lot) and provides the reminder about dogs in the park and that there is no hunting allowed. It will be displayed along with the history of the Horne site. The "Wagon Crossing" and "Bridge Abutment" signs are merely corrections to the language and QR codes. The remaining two are optional descriptions of the landscape. Buchanan noted that on the first sign it would be nice to capitalize "under". Buchanan questioned if "ford" was the correct word in this case; it was agreed that this was correct. She also noted that there was an additional "n" in abandoned; the fourth and final edit has already been corrected on the existing sign by Wood – he changed "truck" to "trunk".

### CONCLUSIONS

Wood questioned if the Commission would appropriate \$100 for the purposes of updating these signs:

Kaszeta made a motion to accept, second by Buchanan.

**Unanimously Approved & Accepted**

### ACTION ITEMS

### PERSON RESPONSIBLE

### DEADLINE

Purchase updated/corrected signs

Wood

ASAP

## NEW BUSINESS – ANNUAL REPORT – DAVID WOOD

### DISCUSSION

Wood thanked and commended Nagy for her updates to his first draft of the Annual Report. Ryan asked for clarification regarding the number that should be inserted in the field where "TBD" is currently. Wood replied that this number is 1,400. The commission agreed to accept the text without the addition or deletion of sections. Wood asked if he should include the "2015 NH Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat" map and Hocker answered that this would be a helpful learning tool.

### CONCLUSIONS

### ACTION ITEMS

### PERSON RESPONSIBLE

### DEADLINE

Wood will send the annual report and associated photos to Melissa White.

Wood

Tomorrow

Buchanan agreed to follow up to make sure Melissa White receives a copy of the overlay map for the Annual Report.

Buchanan

ASAP

## NEW BUSINESS – POLLINATOR GARDEN AT BROOKSIDE PARK – RICHARD HOCKER

### DISCUSSION

Hocker announced that Renee Gustafson has asked permission to plant native shrubs (willows, winterberry, witch hazel) that would be useful in sustaining pollinators in Brookside Park at the back of the apple orchard. In response to a comment from Wood stating

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that he understood that Renee intends to include herbaceous items in plots near the front of the orchard, Hocker replied that Renee is not clear on her plans at this point. Hocker added that there will be several good sources of food for the bees.

Wood added that there are two white pines at the back of the orchard that need to be removed; he will go in to take these trees down as soon as he gets a chance.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
The Commission agreed to allow Renee to proceed.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Hocker to send a formal letter to the Board of Selectman	Hocker	ASAP

### NEW BUSINESS – FREE LIBRARY AT BROOKSIDE PARK – JOHN LARRABEE

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Larrabee suggested creating a “Little Free Library” at Brookside Park ( <a href="https://littlefreelibrary.org/">https://littlefreelibrary.org/</a> ). He noted that Dunbar Free Library is already working to install one of these at Rum Brook Plaza (specific location to be determined). He added that it would be nice to have some small seats, stumps or a bench where people can sit and read. A potential third little library could also be made available. Larrabee suggested picture books, nature books, girl and boy scout manuals; he also suggested building this up as a kit and kids could put it together. He also suggested that the little library at Brookside Park resemble the Dunbar Free library in design. Buchanan questioned if some of the animal tracks, wildflower books, etc. could be used on the trails and returned. Wood questioned if he would like to have a sign made for the Little Library, and Larrabee agreed.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Send Wood information for the proposed Little Library sign.	Larrabee	ASAP

### NEW BUSINESS – REVIEW OF INTENT TO CUT FILING (PA-7) – DAVID WOOD

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Wood asked if it would be worthwhile for the Town Office to notify the GCC when an “Intent to Cut” is submitted to the Town, and the Commission members agreed that it would be good to be able to see how large the upcoming cuts are likely to be. Wood added that the GCC can then be informed of the size of the cut, and if necessary, speak with the Forester if the GCC has concerns.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Ask Melissa to inform the GCC when an intent to cut is received.	Wood	ASAP

### NEW BUSINESS – OTHER

<b>OTHER</b>		
Kaszeta had a chance to look into the cost for an additional 24’ x 48” bridge and he noted that this would cost approximately \$5,000; riggers would not be needed for this bridge. The Commission can take this under advisement regarding this approximate budgetary information.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

### ADJOURNMENT

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

*The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:15p.m.*

### **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, January 16, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Nikki Arsenault