

# Grantham Conservation Commission

## MINUTES

JANUARY 16, 2017

300 ROUTE 10 SOUTH, GRANTHAM, NH

|  |  |
|--|--|
| MEETING CALLED BY                                  | Chairman David Wood  |
| TYPE OF MEETING                                    | Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission                                   |
| FACILITATOR  | David Wood   |
| NOTE TAKER   | Nikki Arsenault  |
| BOARD ATTENDEES                                    | David Wood, Richard Hocker, Rich Kaszeta, Dennis Ryan, Laura Nagy, John Larrabee |
| MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR OTHER BOARDS & COMMITTEES | N/A  |

Chairman Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, January 16, 2017 at 7:05 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 DECEMBER 19, 2016 MEETING

|  |                           |                 |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>  |                           |                 |
| Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft meeting minutes for the December 19, 2016 meeting.   |                           |                 |
| Nagy noted that there was one correction that needed to be made on page 3; remove the second instance of “was correct” under new business. In addition, on page 4 under new business (other) she asked for clarification regarding which bridge Kaszeta was referring to and he confirmed that the price quote given was for bridges “in general”. Wood added that the width measurement of 48” could also be added for clarification. |                           |                 |
| <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>   |                           |                 |
| There being no additional changes or additions to the minutes, Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the December 19, 2016 minutes as amended.  |                           |                 |
| A motion was made by Larrabee to approve the December 19, 2016 minutes as amended by the Commission; second by Hocker. 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 December 19, 2016 meeting will be updated as noted above; the minutes for this meeting will be completed within five business days.  | Nikki Arsenault           | 01/23/2017      |

### OLD BUSINESS – MARCH 5, 2017 SNOWSHOE HIKE – WOOD

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>   |  |  |
| Wood noted that he has made some revisions to the original flyer. Based on the Commission’s response that pets should not be allowed, he noted that he will update the flyer to say that no animals will be allowed except for service dogs. Wood went on to add that the other item that the Commission will need to decide on is if they would like to provide snowshoe rentals – Eastman has snowshoes available for rent at \$9/pair. Another option is for GCC to sponsor snowshoe rentals and to add a quote to the flyer to this effect; that snowshoes are available at the Eastman Country Club for children and adults, and GCC would then pay Eastman \$9/p pair for each pair that goes out. A third option would be that GCC would pay a portion of the rental cost but not the entire fee so that people would have some “skin in the game”. Nagy noted that many people who are interested will likely own their own snowshoes, so if GCC wanted to cover the cost of rentals it would likely not be a large cost. Wood asked if GCC would like to put some money upfront to cover the cost of \$200 worth of rentals from Eastman; the Commission agreed this was a good idea. Hocker stated that historically parking was permitted on the south side of the road; Wood agreed to modify the announcement accordingly. |  |  |
| <b>CONCLUSION</b>   |  |  |

| ACTION ITEMS                   | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Update and submit event flyer. | Wood               |          |

OLD BUSINESS – BROOKSIDE PARK – WOOD

| DISCUSSION   |                    |          |
|--|--------------------|----------|
| Wood noted that all corrections have been made to the web supporting the QR codes on the Brookside signs. Additionally, all six new signs have been received. Three can be posted immediately; two others will be posted once the soil thaws and posts can be installed; the last will be posted once the "Little Free Library" is complete. |                    |          |
| CONCLUSIONS  |                    |          |
|  |                    |          |
| ACTION ITEMS   | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Install signs.   | Wood               | ASAP     |

OLD BUSINESS – STATUS OF SMITH LOT LOGGING – WOOD

| DISCUSSION  |                    |          |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| Wood announced that Jeremy Turner found a logging company that is able to do the job. The Selectmen have waived the timber tax for this particular logging cut; there will be a variance that will need to be approved at the state level. Wood noted that there is no reason to assume that this variance will not be accepted. Following a question from Larrabee, Wood noted that the value of this cut will be very low. Ryan questioned where the trailhead and parking area would be – if this was the proposed clear-cut area. Wood clarified this and explained that there would in fact be two clear-cut areas from this cut - a log yard and the larger clear cut around the old cemetery. Wood added the proposed cut will also create a "loop" hiking trail as discussed in prior meetings. |                    |          |
| CONCLUSIONS   |                    |          |
|   |                    |          |
| ACTION ITEMS  | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None at this time.  |                    |          |

OLD BUSINESS – SHORELINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS AND EMERALD ASH BORER PROJECT – NAGY

| DISCUSSION  |  |          |
|---|--|----------|
| Nagy noted that there were no Shoreline Cutting applications last month.  |  |          |
| Nagy also added with respect to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) project that March or April would be a good time for a sponsored talk. Nagy will contact Morgan Dube to clarify specific dates. She continued that in addition to Sustainable Eastman, the Woodlands and Wildlife Committee in Eastman is also on board as a sponsor. |  |          |
| CONCLUSIONS   | Wood asked for a motion for the GCC to co-sponsor the Emerald Ash Borer talk. Larrabee made a motion to approve that GCC sponsor the EAB talk. Kaszeta seconded. |          |
|   | <b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b>   |          |
| ACTION ITEMS  | PERSON RESPONSIBLE   | DEADLINE |
| Follow-up with potential presenters.  | Nagy   | ASAP     |

OLD BUSINESS – PURCHASE OF CHESTNUT SEEDLINGS – HOCKER

| DISCUSSION   |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Hocker announced that there was not a great deal of new information to report at this time. He suspects that the easiest course of action will be to purchase the 2 year-old trees. Wood noted that what Hocker is recommending comes in a pot; Hocker added that they ship on a palette of 50 trees. He further suggested sending a letter asking for a discount given that this is a civic project. Nagy agreed to write a letter to this effect. Wood confirmed that GCC will have a spot held at the annual garden sale. |  |  |

|  |                           |                 |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Hocker noted that the order will likely need to be placed at the beginning of March; 30 of these trees will be used for the orchard; 20 will be available for sale.  |                           |                 |
| <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>   |                           |                 |
| Wood asked for a motion to approve up to \$2,000 to purchase Dunston Chestnut trees for use by the Commission and for sale at the annual garden sale.<br>Larrabee made a motion to approve up to \$2,000 for the purchase of Dunston Chestnut trees for these purposes.<br>Nagy seconded the motion. |                           |                 |
| <b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b>   |                           |                 |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b>  | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b> | <b>DEADLINE</b> |
| Write a letter to Dunston tree company requesting a discount for civic project   | Nagy                      | ASAP            |

OLD BUSINESS – TRAIL FINDER – WOOD

|   |                           |                 |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>   |                           |                 |
| Wood and Ryan submitted information on a loop trail in Sherwood Forest to UVTA for publication in Trail Finder. The draft of the Trail Finder page has been received and was discussed. Ryan pointed out that the GPS track does not exactly overlap the road shown by Google; Wood responded that Google Maps is likely in error. Hocker noted that Google also incorrectly named Faye Road as Leavitt Hill Rd, show Faye Rd running along Miller Pond, and show Mill Pond as Millar Pond. Kaszeta reported the three issues to Google, noting they have a tendency to take a long time to correct these issues. |                           |                 |
| Kaszeta noted that he would like a briefing of how to upload the GPX format to the website. Wood noted that he would send Kaszeta the form that was created for this purpose.   |                           |                 |
| <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>  |                           |                 |
|   |                           |                 |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b>   | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b> | <b>DEADLINE</b> |
| None at this time.  |                           |                 |

NEW BUSINESS – OTHER

|  |                           |                 |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>OTHER</b>   |                           |                 |
| Larrabee noted that, in response to Hocker's request to the town, plowing is taking place at the parking area at Brookside Park. |                           |                 |
| <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>   |                           |                 |
|  |                           |                 |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b>  | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b> | <b>DEADLINE</b> |
| None   |                           |                 |

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

***The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.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, February 20, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Nikki Arsenault