

# Grantham Conservation Commission

## MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

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	Dennis Ryan, Nikki Arsenault
COMMISSION MEMBERS	Chairman David Wood, Richard Hocker, Dennis Ryan, Laura Nagy, John Larrabee, Rich Kaszeta
ABSENT	Sue Buchanan
OTHER VISITORS	N/A

David Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, September 18, 2017 at 7:03 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 THE AUGUST 21, 2017 MEETING

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft meeting minutes for the August 21, 2017 meeting.		
The following corrections were suggested:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes or corrections were suggested.</li> </ul>		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
There being no changes to the minutes, Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the August 21, 2017.		
A motion was made by Larrabee to approve the August 21, 2017 minutes; 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>		
Meeting minutes for this meeting will be completed within five business days.	Nikki Arsenault	09/25/2017

### OLD BUSINESS – SHORELINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS – LARRABEE / NAGY

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Shoreline cutting applications were caught up to date. Wood mentioned the following: L. Moses, Recreation Director at Eastman proposes to replace a diseased blue spruce tree at South Cove with an elm tree. Larrabee has spoken with L. French about this matter and she has looked at the blue spruce, confirming it to be a diseased tree. The new elm is to be a disease-resistant tree. This will need approval of the Selectmen.		
<b>CONCLUSION</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>		
Draft a request to the Board of Selectmen	Larrabee and Nagy	

NEW BUSINESS – GCC MEETING DATE CHANGE

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
It was decided that the first Monday of each month was acceptable to the members of the Commission. A motion was requested to accept this change:		
A motion was made by Larrabee; second by Nagy. All in favor.		
<b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b>		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Notify Town Hall and have the dates changed in the Grantham News.	Wood	

OLD BUSINESS – TRAILS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Wood has used a GPS to record one of the two trails near the Snow Dusters’ warming hut. He found the trail to be in good shape. Wood proposed that a later meeting of the Commission include some time spent on wording for inclusion of these trails on Trail Finder.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None at this time.		

OLD BUSINESS – HUNT FOR GRANTHAM HISTORY

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Discussion has begun concerning the “History Hunt”. It was suggested that it be planned for the spring.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Contact R. Kaszeta about the History Hunt details and also ask Sue Buchanan if she is willing to coordinate with GVS regarding their participation.	Nagy	

OLD BUSINESS – HIKE TO LITTLE MOUNT WASHINGTON

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
On Sept. 17, 14 hikers, including 5 from New London hiked up to the Little Mount Washington look-off on a GCC sponsored hike. A second hike is proposed for Oct. 7 from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm, weather permitting, to coincide with the peak of the fall foliage season.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Send announcement to Grantham News and Eastman Highlights	Wood	

OLD BUSINESS – WARRANT FOR BOND OPTION / CURRENT STATUS OF OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES – HOCKER

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
<p>The Hastings Lot 208-001 on Leavitt Hill Road is on the market. Hocker reported that the asking price is \$48,000 for 24 acres. The lot has not been cut in about 30 years. After some discussion, Wood suggested getting an appraisal by an outside party. Hocker proposed walking to the lot in the near future and agreed to contact the appraisers used in the past.</p> <p>Wood moved that Hocker be authorized to contract with the appraisers if their cost estimate for the appraisal is \$600 or less, seconded by Nagy. All in favor.</p> <p><b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b></p> <p>The Ruger Property – Current asking price is \$777,000 for 380 acres in 3 contiguous lots of prime potential real estate (potentially one hundred house lots could be carved out of it). No significant timber value is present. GCC discussed involvement by UVLT and/or SPNHF.</p> <p>Warrant article – Wood presented a flier from Amherst promoting a warrant article for a bond for purchase of open space. It stressed the threat of development. Development threats in Grantham appear to be low at this time, but we may be able to argue a case for buying land on wildlife corridors, “high priority” habitats, and “endangered species” (e.g., moose habitats). GCC discussed lots owned by Ruger, T. Romano and Gault with respect to a wildlife corridor. If the argument is to rest on wildlife corridors, the size of the bond to be authorized should be sufficient to purchase blocks of all three properties.</p>		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Contact appraiser.	Hocker	
Contact SPNHF and UVLT to see if there is any interest.	Wood	
Contact Sheridan Brown regarding warrant article.	Wood	

**OTHER BUSINESS — REIMBURSEMENTS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
<p>Wood moved to reimburse Larrabee in the amount of \$47.37 for stain and staining supplies for the bridge at Brookside Park, seconded by Nagy, approved unanimously.</p>		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None at this time.		

**OTHER BUSINESS – GRANTHAM MASTER PLAN - WOOD**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
<p>Wood explained that the Plan recommends that the Conservation Commission consider several tasks over the next decade, including trail maps, purchase of additional open space, and the creation of new biking and cross-county trails. He suggested that the GCC should create subgroups to exploring these recommendations.</p>		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None at this time.		

**OTHER BUSINESS – AUSBON-SARGENT**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
<p>Thain Allan asked if anyone is interested in serving on the Ausbon-Sargent board. Nagy asked for more information.</p>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>

Forward Thain Allan's contact information to Nagy.	Wood	
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**ADJOURNMENT**

Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Nagy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. and Hocker 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, October 2, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Ryan with formatting updates made by Nikki Arsenault