

Grantham Conservation Commission

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 6, 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	David Wood – from recording
COMMISSION MEMBERS	Chairman David Wood, Rich Kaszeta, Richard Hocker, John Larrabee, Laura Nagy , Dennis Ryan, & Sue Buchanan
ABSENT	
OTHER VISITORS	

Chairman David Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, November 6, 2017 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 SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 MEETING

DISCUSSION		
Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft meeting minutes for the October 2, 2017 meeting. The following corrections were suggested:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buchanan – bottom of page 1, change 2028 to 2027. Buchanan - middle paragraph 1 on page 2, add “forest” to “in terms of early successional” Buchanan - Revise the Conclusion of OLD BUSINESS – TOWN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN to read: “GCC members noted their support of this draft of the Plan and that they wish to have the plan fully developed so that the Town can move forward with this project. The plan will likely be implemented in the winter of 2018-2019.” Buchanan - Revise Discussion in “FORESTRY PLANS FOR SMITH LOT” to read: “Turner expects that logging on the Smith Lot would be completed this winter, implementing the Forest Management Plan that had been approved, but not implemented, last year.” 		
CONCLUSIONS		
There being no additional changes to the minutes, Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the October minutes. A motion was made by Kaszeta; seconded by Nagy. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.		
Unanimously Approved & Accepted		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Meeting minutes for this meeting will be prepared from the recording	TBD	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – TOWN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN – LAURA FRENCH

DISCUSSION	
The commission complemented Laura French on the thoroughness and the educational value of the plan. Wood opened a discussion of action items recommended by the draft forest management plan. With regard to the plan’s recommendation regarding invasive plants, it was agreed to schedule a walk through the areas to be cut both early in 2018 in time to identify problem areas before cutting and again in 2020 after the harvest is complete. With regard to the proposal to replant soft mast producers, it was agreed to order and plant seedlings during the spring of 2019. With regard to reblazing the boundaries of the Town Forest, it was agreed that the GCC beginning in the summer of 2018 would attempt to reblaze those portions of the boundary in which the old blazes are still clear, then contract professionals to blaze the remaining portions. The options of maintaining some of the clear cut areas as meadow and cutting “fingers” into wetlands to encourage regrowth of beaver forage was discussed and should be addressed with Laura French. Ryan recommended that the existing trails in the Forest be identified and that the plan take them into account and propose where new trails might be sighted. Nagy noted that the State is rolling out a computer program to optimize the siting of trails. Wood recommended that the Woodlot History section of the plan be revised to make the history more complete.	
CONCLUSION	Continue to review and revise the Forest Management Plan.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Wood to address the above topics with French	Dave Wood	12/4/2017
Nagy to follow up on computerized trail siting	Laura Nagy	12/4/2017
Wood to revised Woodlot History with help of Grantham Historic Soc.	Dave Wood	12/4/2017
Revise and finalize the Plan.	Laura French	

OLD BUSINESS – SHORELINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS – NAGY

DISCUSSION		
Nagy reported that Eastman has removed the diseased spruce at South Cove and replaced it with a disease-resistant elm. Wood recommended that the action should be publicized so that people know that the elm is both native and disease-resistant.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Ask Leslie Moses about plans to publicize	Nagy	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – HUNT FOR GRANTHAM HISTORY – KASZETA / NAGY

DISCUSSION		
Kaszeta has refined the list of scavenger hunt items and determined their GPS coordinates. He is looking for a town logo to print enamel pins.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Get quotes on printing of pins	Kaszeta	12/4/2017
Follow up with GVS and middle school regarding participation in the Hunt.	Buchanan	12/4/2017

OLD BUSINESS – WARRANT ARTICLE TO CREATE BOND FOR OPEN SPACE PURCHASE – WOOD

DISCUSSION		
Wood reported the unanimous advice of the Ausbon Sargent staff and chairs of neighboring Conservation Commissions that such a warrant would be unlikely to be pass unless it can be tied to an existing opportunity to purchase open land.		
CONCLUSIONS	Table plans to develop a warrant for bonding.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

NEW BUSINESS – NHACC MEETING – WOOD / NAGY / BUCHANAN

DISCUSSION		
Based upon information gained at the NHACC Annual Meeting, Buchanan noted that the GCC files should be reviewed to assure that they are complete, especially with regard to the stewardship of open space. Kaszeta emphasized that the land monitoring reports must be as complete as possible, with photographs where possible, to support the town's rights in the event of disputes with the landowner. They further noted that infringements of the Town's rights should be evaluated carefully by more than one commissioner and that the Town has the obligation to address and rectify infringements.		
Buchanan subsequently noted that uploading trails onto Trail Finder is now easier. The submitting organization need only fill out a form with the required information and provide the track information, and UNH or UVTA will upload the information. Contact information for Emma Tutein at UNH was provided.		
Approval was requested for reimbursement of registration expenses: Buchanan \$65, Nagy \$55, Wood \$55.		
Wood requested a motion to approve payments; Hocker made the motion, Kaszeta seconded.		
Unanimously Approved & Accepted		
CONCLUSIONS		

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Review and update the GCC files at Town Hall	Wood	ASAP
Submit receipts to Town Hall	Buchanan, Nagy, Wood	

NEW BUSINESS – MONITORING OF SMITH AND FLEWELLING LOTS

DISCUSSION		
Dates were discussed to schedule the monitoring of the Smith and Flewelling Lots.		
CONCLUSIONS	Monitoring scheduled Nov 18, pending agreement with UVLT.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Confirm monitoring date	Wood	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – BUTTERFLY HUNT - NAGY

DISCUSSION		
Nagy recommended the scheduling of a Butterfly Hunt run by Ausbon Sargent. Likely dates and time would be in July at a wetland in Grantham.		
CONCLUSIONS	The GCC is interested in sponsoring a hunt.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Determine a preliminary schedule with Ausbon Sargent	Nagy	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – CONGRATULATIONS TO LARRABEE - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
Wood noted that John Larrabee has been selected as New Hampshire Volunteer of the Year by AARP to be presented on Thursday, Nov 9.		
CONCLUSIONS	Congratulations from GCC	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

NEW BUSINESS – GCC PRIORITIES FOR SELECTBOARD ACTION - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
The GCC has requested several actions of the Select board. Wood noted that due to time constraints of the Selectmen the GCC needs to prioritize its needs. He had suggested that the question of access to the Hasting's lot was the first priority followed by the issue of public access to the Flewelling property.		
CONCLUSIONS	The GCC concurred with Wood's suggested priorities.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Encourage action by the Select board	Wood	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – RESPONSE TO THE MASTER PLAN - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
Wood noted that the new Grantham Master Plan includes the creation of trail maps, new trails, acquisition of open space, removal of underground storage tanks, the use of salt on the roads, and walk/bike trails to the Rec field. The first three are in progress. After discussion, it was agreed that the GCC should not concern itself with the walk/bike trails on public roads.		
CONCLUSIONS	Commission will remain attentive to the issues of UST and road salt use, but defer further action pending the results of relevant initiatives within Eastman.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Check with Eastman management to learn if Grantham is following best practice on salt use.	Larrabee	ASAP
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ADJOURNMENT

Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Kaszeta moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. and Buchanan seconded the motion.

The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Commission moved to executive/non-public session.

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, December 4, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wood