

Grantham Conservation Commission

MINUTES

DECEMBER 4, 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, Dennis Ryan, & Sue Buchanan
ABSENT	Laura Nagy
OTHER VISITORS	

Chairman David Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, December 4, 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 SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 MEETING

DISCUSSION		
Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft minutes of the regular meeting for the November 6, 2017 meeting. None were suggested.		
There being no changes to the minutes, Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the November minutes. A motion was made by Larrabee; seconded by Kaszeta. 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	Wood	12/9/2017

OLD BUSINESS – TOWN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN – LAURA FRENCH

DISCUSSION		
Revisions to the FMP have been forwarded to Laura French. Ryan is completing additional editing. A report is anticipated on the technology to site trails was assigned to Nagy at the last meeting.		
CONCLUSION	Continue to review and revise the Forest Management Plan.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Forward final revisions to French	Dave Wood	ASAP
Nagy to follow up on computerized trail siting	Laura Nagy	2/5/2018
Revise and finalize the Plan.	Laura French	

OLD BUSINESS – SHORELINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS – NAGY

DISCUSSION		
Approval was recommended for shoreline cutting on the Feldman property in Eastman.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

OLD BUSINESS – HUNT FOR GRANTHAM HISTORY – KASZETA / NAGY

DISCUSSION		
<p>Kaszeta has revised the artwork and received a quote of 100 pins for \$239. Buchanan has discussed the plan with GVS and the Lebanon middle school and received expressions of interest. Notification will be put into the school newsletters and brochures will be prepared closer to the date. A motion to approve the above expenditure and place the order for 100 pins was made by Kaszeta and seconded by Buchanan. The motion was put to a vote.</p>		
Unanimously Approved & Accepted		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Order pins	Kaszeta	2/5/2018

OLD BUSINESS – PURCHASE OF HASTINGS PROPERTY – WOOD

DISCUSSION		
<p>Wood has received no information concerning the rights of use of the Leavitt Hill Rd to be gained by the purchase of the property. On Dec 4, Hocker, Ryan, Renee Gustafson and Wood walked the perimeter of the property beginning at the terminus of the Smith-Hastings Road. The forest is young with sign of moose. The property also contains two vernal pools and an unusually high stone wall, presumably a sign of sheep farming, on the northwestern boundary. No distant views, cellar holes, or special erratics or natural environments were noticed. Hocker has communicated the reasons for the delay in advancing the purchase.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Review the deed for the property	Hocker	ASAP
Encourage Selectmen to obtain legal comment of rights of access	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – SMITH LOT LOGGING – WOOD

DISCUSSION		
<p>Turner is updating the approvals needed to initiate cutting.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

OLD BUSINESS – MONITORING OF SMITH AND FLEWELLING LOTS

DISCUSSION		
<p>On Nov 17, Hocker, Ryan, Wood and Craig McArt walked the Smith Lot with Doug Brown from UVLT. No incursions or other disturbance was noticed and a report is expected from Brown by the end of December.</p>		
<p>Hocker, Ryan and Wood continued to walk the Flewelling property the same day, and Wood returned on Nov 20 and 27. Free access to the property appears to be inhibited by the construction of a locked gate at the bridge from Miller Pond Rd, by obstruction of trails by newly cut saplings and by the retention of signs announcing the closure of trails due to "Logging in Progress". A report detailing the preceived violations of the easement has been submitted to Steve Walker at the Conservation Land Stewardship Program and to the Selectmen.</p>		
<p>Wood discussed the attractiveness of an option to bridge Skinner Brook to the east of the Flewelling wetland. A bridge at that position would give access to a logging road leading to the log yard on Faye Rd. The route gives excellent views because of the logging of the area. Access at that point has the advantage of proximity to the parking area to be built on the Smith Lot and the disadvantage of its distance from Miller Pond.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS	<p>The Smith Lot appears to be in compliance and the Flewelling Lot out of compliance with their respective easements.</p>	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Send a copy of Walker's email to Selectmen	Wood	ASAP
Encourage action by the Selectmen regarding Flewelling	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – REVIEW OF GCC FILES - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
Wood has not yet reviewed the GCC files at Town Hall.		
CONCLUSIONS	Files require review.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Review files	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – TRAIL FINDER - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
A draft description of the Croydon Turnpike and hike to Little Mount Washington were reviewed and revised for submission to Trail Finder.		
CONCLUSIONS	The revised description is now acceptable for submission.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Send description, GPS and photos to Tutein for Trail Finder	Wood	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – RESIGNATION OF NIKKI ARSENAULT - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
Nikki Arsenault has tendered her resignation as secretary for the GCC.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Advertise position	Melissa	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – GCC MEETING DATE - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
The GCC website states that the commission meets on the third Monday of the month, whereas it has recently met on the first Monday. After discussion, it was agreed to remain on the first Monday. Because Jan 1 is the first Monday, that meeting will be cancelled and the web site needs to be updated.		
CONCLUSIONS	Continue to meet on first Monday of the month. Cancel Jan 1, 2018 meeting.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Update GCC website	Wood	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – EXPENDITURES - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
Membership for the Upper Valley Trails Alliance of \$30 is up for renewal. A motion to approve the above expenditure was made by Kasceta and seconded by Larrabee. The motion was put to a vote.		
Unanimously Approved & Accepted		
Payment of an invoice from Laura French for attendance at the GCC meeting of Oct 2 has been received. A motion to approve the payment was made by Buchanan and seconded by Larrabee. The motion was put to a vote.		
Unanimously Approved & Accepted		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Initiate payments	Wood	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – GAME TRAIL MAPPING - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
Wood announced that Rick van de Pol is able to map game trails at a minimal price. Lebanon has employed him to determine areas where wildlife crosses their roads and has initiated mitigation measures. GCC had been interested in mapping the game trails through properties available for sale as a mechanism to evaluate their wildlife value. Because the Ruger property is under contract, it was agreed that mapping game trails there is no longer of interest to the GCC. Buchanan mentioned that they are friends of the current owner of lot 211-011, property that would potentially connect the contiguous portion of the Town Forest with the Smith Lot. She will determine the owner's interest in exploring a conservation easement after which evaluation of game trails there will be considered.		
CONCLUSIONS Explore a conservation easement on lot 211-011.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Discuss easement with lot owner	Buchanan	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – LIBERTY UTILITY LNG PLAN FOR LEBANON - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
Wood announced that Liberty Utility has proposed the installation of a liquid natural gas facility in West Lebanon. The Hanover and Lebanon CCs are opposed. Wood is trying to get information from Liberty Utility explaining their side of the issue. He proposed that the discussion be continued once additional information is available.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Contact: Liberty Utility	Wood	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – LITTLE FREE LIBRARY CLOSED - LARRABEE

DISCUSSION		
Larrabee announced that, because of a drop-off in use, he has closed the Little Free Library at Brookside. Others in town remain open. Wood asked whether information about winter tracks should be added.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Consider adding winter track information to the LFLs	Larrabee	ASAP
Continue to evaluate use of the LFLs.	Larrabee	ASAP

ADJOURNMENT

Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Larrabee moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. and Kaszeta 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, February 5, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wood