

# Grantham Conservation Commission

## MINUTES

APRIL 2, 2018

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         | Eryn Bagley  |
| COMMISSION MEMBERS | Sue Buchanan, John Larrabee, Richard Hocker, Dennis Ryan, & David Wood |
| ABSENT             | Rich Kaszeta, Laura Nagy   |
| SELECTBOARD REP    | Peter Garland  |
| OTHER VISITORS     | Jeremy Turner, Keith Grohbrugge  |

Chairman David Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, April 2, 2018 at 7:00 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 FEBRUARY 5, 2018 MEETING

|  |                           |                 |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>  |                           |                 |
| Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft minutes of the regular meeting for the February 5, 2018. Ryan noted a misspelling on page two of the minutes, which was edited "real-time" during the meeting. |                           |                 |
| Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the February minutes. A motion was made by Hocker; seconded by Ryan. 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 this meeting will be prepared from the recording   | Bagley                    | April 7, 2018   |

### OLD BUSINESS – TOWN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP)–

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>  |   |
| <p>BMSD President, Keith Grohbrugge, asked about the impact to the recreation trails/snowmobile trails along Corridor 5 that may be subject to the logging next winter. Turner noted that he understands that the question is how to log while minimizing impact to snowmobile Corridor 5. Turner supports a reroute rather than a shared trail during logging times, citing safety and road requirements for pass-ability. Tentatively speaking, Turner plans a landing at 4 Corners (opposing the BMSD Warming Hut, with a second planned landing in the location of Chase Pond. During the time of logging, Croydon Turnpike from BMSD Warming Hut to Chase Pond would be made a road for trucking. Any work done south of the hut, headed towards Sugar Hill would be minimal. As a proposed re-route, Jer suggested that use of Mountain Road across Lily Pond to Blow-Me-Down trails and through to Green's Cottage Road to Ruger Road. Operation is to last approximately 4 weeks (ideally). Keith questioned whether the cut areas will be replanted? Wood noted that intent is to let the areas come back into early successional forest. Main driver is to increase diversity in age of forest population. Most likely no replanting. Wood would like trail system (hiking) to see the impact of the growth and would be glad to work with BMSD. Discussion was held on re-blazing the property lines for the town forest. Turner suggests the group start with Smith Lot as a means to understanding re-blazing, and, if that goes well, consider re-blazing the Mountain Lot. The Town Forest area is large, with diverse terrain, where volunteers who are untrained may find it difficult to find/re-blaze the area. Wood suggested the timeframe of June for this activity. No further discussion, or, agreement to this timeline.</p> <p>Wood questioned Turner on when he felt would be an optimal time for surveying for invasive plants. Turner noted that most invasive species put out their leaves before and hold them after native species, so either spring or fall would be good times to review. Wood suggested scheduling in the fall.</p> |   |
| <b>CONCLUSION</b>  | Jer and Keith and Willy Newhall (BMSD reps) to discuss with Troy regarding the use of Green's Cottage Road. |

| ACTION ITEMS   | PERSON RESPONSIBLE  | DEADLINE   |
|--|---|------------|
| Discuss the re-route including Troy Simino, land manager, regarding the use of Green's Cottage Road. | Grohbrugge, Turner, and Willy Newhall (BMSD Trail Master) | Sept, 2018 |

OLD BUSINESS – SMITH LOT

| DISCUSSION   |
|--|
| <p>The plan had been to clear-cut and create J shaped logging road and selectively cut larger fraction of Smith Lot. Because of weather, clear cut was completed, but selective cut was not completed. Around \$5,000 was grossed from the work completed at this time. Turner sees the next steps as allowing dry-out and green up of the logged area, after which: modifications for access (i.e. parking, gates, access points, etc.) and preparation for planting can begin.</p> <p>Turner noted that invasive honeysuckle remain at the old homestead. Wood asked if clear cut involved the honeysuckle plot, Jer notes no.</p> <p>In order to prepare a site for meadow planting, Wood noted that there was a provider who had a system for turning the area into plantable meadow using a log grinder that will destroy tap route underground, then pulverize rock, till, and leave "fluffy" soil on the surface. Pricing is approximately \$5,000 per acre, and, \$1,000 to get equipment to site. Area clear cut is approx. 4 acres. The cost to convert the entire area into meadow would be estimated at \$21,000 to clear and turn into meadow with frequent maintenance needed to ensure upkeep for first few years; therefore, Wood suggested converting only 1 ½ to 2 acre into meadow. The overall purpose would be improvement to wildlife and pollinator habitat. This area has been discussed with Cathy Neal, Nursery &amp; Landscape Horticulture State Specialist with the UNH Cooperative, who felt that this is good site as is close to wetland, in Sherwood Forest which is good for pollinators. Pending further recommendations from Cathy and other, Wood proposed the committee could use stumping machinery to clear (June), let weeds come back in, then use Round-Up to kill weeds. In the Spring 2019 seed, potentially with clover mix.</p> <p>Larrabee questioned if saplings would be knocked down. Wood responded yes, this would offer perennials a better chance at survival.</p> <p>Larrabee voiced his opposition to the use of Round-Up to eliminate weeds and grasses, prior to replanting, with a concern for contamination to area water. Larrabee questioned what the overall purpose/plan is for the area? Wood and Turner both supplied past history that there has been work ongoing in planning since 2012-2011. Turner has been working with town to plan asset/forest and these plans are driven by science/validation/field work in relation to the best stewardship for the land. In relation to Smith Lot, conservation has always been the end goal. This is the culmination of a developed long term forestry plan (over approx. 10 years). The lot was previously a meadow/apple orchard.</p> <p>Larrabee voiced that he had completed past research with pollinator committee and urges that this group gets back together, and that the GCC should look to work cross-functionally with the Cooperative Extension teams, local schools and scouts, gardening club, etc., so that everyone can work together. He is also not supportive of the pulverizing plan, and, presented that there is research that has found negative impacts with the use of Round-Up.</p> <p>Hocker discussed the placement of proposed Chestnut trees, noting that they will do best in area not stumped, where root and mycorrhizal structure remains. Hocker notes a need for 40-45 foot differential between trees. Discussion of the chestnut trees was focused on when and where to plant the trees, and, if the planting would cause an issue in relation to the remainder of the work that would need to be completed to the area.</p> <p>In-depth research completed by Hocker found that the chestnut trees to buy are 2 years old, and would take an additional 4 years to bear fruit. The current plan would be to plant 30 trees in the Smith Lot. If the GCC would like to plan the chestnuts this year, then plant acquisition would need to take place in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>Wood asks for discussion on how to kill what is coming back up, aside from round up/weed killer. Discussion to cover the entire lot with fill was touched on; however, that is substantial financial impact. Round-up literature was again discussed.</p> <p>Extensive discussion was held in focusing on the layout and overall planting/seeding plan for the lot. At this time, there is no cohesive plan on where to plant, impacts on those areas, etc. Wood confirmed that he has a meeting on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> with Cathy Neal and invited Turner to attend. All those present supported that this would be an optimal time to lay out the location of meadow/chestnuts/access points, with the input of Neal. Meeting is at Smith Lot location.</p> <p>Turner asks if Dode Gladders could come as has background in invasives and herbicides. Wood agreed.</p> <p>Based on the uncertainty of the plan, Wood asked if the GCC would vote to order the trees this year. Hocker detailed that when ordering, the minimum order is 50 tree, though the GCC would only need 30 trees for the lot. The trees would be delivered on UPS pallets, would be 4 feet in height in 3 quart container/50 trees min order. Costing would be \$1850 total. To recoup the remaining cost of the trees, the left overs would be sold at \$37.00 a tree. Lifetime of the trees post-delivery, left in travel containers, is not long. All members present unanimously voted to delay the purchase of the chestnuts until next year, and use this year as a planning year.</p> <p><b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b></p> <p>Larrabee discussed the building of the kiosks in Smith Lot, with the proposition of building three kiosks: one at end of Grantham trail system in Croydon, a second by BMSD hut, and the third at Smith Lot. Wood made a motion for the allocation of \$300.00 to Larabee</p> |

to build only the Smith Lot kiosk at this time. Buchanan seconded. This would come from the Town Forest fund. **Unanimously Approved & Accepted**

Larrabee during this point in conversation also requested an additional \$42.00 for stain and brushes to refresh structures at Brookside park area. Wood made a motion to approve this request with the funds coming from the GCC supply budget. Buchanan seconded. **Unanimously Approved & Accepted**

Wood reported that the soil samples from the lot have been collected at the cost of \$68.00 (\$17.00 per sample). Sample results should be returned in approximately 4 weeks. Wood requested a motion to pay for the samples that had been collected with the funds coming from the Town Forest Fund. Larrabee motioned to authorize the payment of \$68.00 for samples, with Ryan seconding. **Unanimously Approved & Accepted**

| ACTION ITEMS  | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE       |
|---|--------------------|----------------|
| Arrange 25Apr18 meeting onsite at Smith lot with Neal, Turner, and Gladders | Wood               | April 25, 2018 |

OLD BUSINESS – SHORELINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS – NAGY

| DISCUSSION                              |                    |          |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| No new applications have been received. |                    |          |
| ACTION ITEMS                            | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None                                    |                    |          |

OLD BUSINESS – HUNT FOR GRANTHAM HISTORY – KASZETA / NAGY

| DISCUSSION   |                    |          |
|--|--------------------|----------|
| No new update.   |                    |          |
| ACTION ITEMS   | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Complete compilation of routes, GPS coordinates and photos | Kaszeta            | 5/7/2018 |
| Coordinate with GVS and Lebanon Schools                    | Buchanan           | 5/7/2018 |

OLD BUSINESS – DRAGONFLY HUNT - NAGY

| DISCUSSION  |                    |          |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| Dates for a dragonfly hunt have been set with Andy Degan from Ausbon-Sargent for July 31 with a rain date of Aug 2. The location has yet to be determined with the following locations suggested: Schwartz property on Stocker Pond, finishing ponds in Eastman's John's Glen, pond below Grantham Indoor, and, Miller Pond. No further information at this time. |                    |          |
| ACTION ITEMS  | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Consider alternative locations  | Nagy               | 5/7/2018 |

OLD BUSINESS – FLEWELLING EASEMENT VIOLATION – WOOD

| DISCUSSION   |                    |           |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Wood reported that Mr. Hoglund had received letter from town attorney and has told Melissa that he plans to continue to fight the right for use of property. Wood is to call town attorney to discuss any problem if the Dragon Fly Hunt was held in the Miller Pond area. Hocker would like the sign that was there in the past denoting locations of Smith Lot and Flewellen property. Wood to follow up with town attorney. |                    |           |
| ACTION ITEMS   | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE  |
| Follow up with Selectmen regarding easement violation  | Wood               | 5/7//2018 |
| Impact of Dragon Fly Hunt at Miller Pond   | Wood               | 5/7/2018  |
| Contact town attorney regarding replacing signage  | Wood               | 5/7/2018  |

OLD BUSINESS – REVIEW OF GCC FILES - WOOD

|  |  |                           |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>  |  |                           |
| Several 10 year old cutting applications from the GCC files were given to Martha to determine whether they are duplicates of application in the town property files. If so, future GCC files can be destroyed. If not, the GCC files need to be moved into the property files. |  |                           |
| <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>   |  |                           |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b>  |  | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b> |
| Determine duplication of GCC files   |  | Martha Norris             |
|  |  | <b>DEADLINE</b>           |
|  |  | ASAP                      |

OLD BUSINESS – LOT 211-011 EASEMENT

|  |  |                           |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>  |  |                           |
| Buchanan noted that the owner was asked if he would be receptive to placing a portion of his property in an easement. He was not overly receptive. |  |                           |
| <b>CONCLUSIONS</b> No further action.  |  |                           |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b>  |  | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b> |
|  |  |                           |
|  |  | <b>DEADLINE</b>           |
|  |  |                           |

NEW BUSINESS – CORRESPONDENCE - WOOD

|                     |  |                           |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>   |  |                           |
| No new business     |  |                           |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b> |  | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b> |
| None                |  |                           |
|                     |  | <b>DEADLINE</b>           |
|                     |  |                           |

NEW BUSINESS – Group Plan for Removal of USTs

|                     |  |                           |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>   |  |                           |
| Tabled              |  |                           |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b> |  | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b> |
| Add to GCC goals    |  | Wood                      |
|                     |  | <b>DEADLINE</b>           |
|                     |  |                           |

**ADJOURNMENT**

Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Ryan moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. and Larrabee 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, May 7, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Eryn Bagley  
Grantham Conservation Commission Clerk

# 2018 Grantham Conservation Commission Goals

(Draft Feb 5, 2018)

## Smith Lot:

- Complete timber harvest
- Purchase and plant chestnuts
- Complete slash cleanup and layout of loop trail

## Brookside:

- Refresh trail

## Town Forest:

- Blaze trails & boundary
- Survey planned clear cut areas for invasives / clear as appropriate
- Approve cutting plan

## Flewelling:

- Resolve of easement issues with owner

## Land Acquisition:

- Finalize decision on Hastings property
- Explore easement on lot 211-011

## Trail Mapping:

- Launch maps of Town Forest and Flewelling property on Trail Finder
- Prepare drafts of other Grantham trails for discussion with land owners

## Publicity:

- Sponsor Dragonfly hunt
- Organize scavenger hunt
- Participate in Olde Home Day
- Sponsor town-wide meeting on forest management for wildlife