

# Grantham Conservation Commission

## MINUTES

MAY 7, 2018

300 ROUTE 10 SOUTH, GRANTHAM, NH

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| MEETING CALLED BY  | Dick Hocker   |
| TYPE OF MEETING    | Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission        |
| FACILITATOR        | Richard Hocker in absence of Chairman Dave Wood       |
| NOTE TAKER         | Eryn Bagley   |
| COMMISSION MEMBERS | Sue Buchanan, Dennis Ryan, Laura Nagy, & Rich Kaszeta |
| ABSENT             | David Wood, John Larrabee                             |
| SELECTBOARD REP    | Peter Garland   |
| OTHER VISITORS     |   |

In the absence of Wood, Hocker led the meeting.

Hocker called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, May 7, 2018 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 APRIL 2, 2018 MEETING

|   |                    |              |
|---|--------------------|--------------|
| DISCUSSION  |                    |              |
| Hocker asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft minutes of the regular meeting for the April 2, 2018. None offered.                                       |                    |              |
| Hocker announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the April minutes. A motion was made by Nagy; seconded by Ryan. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote. |                    |              |
| <b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b>  |                    |              |
| ACTION ITEMS  | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE     |
| Meeting minutes for this meeting will be prepared from the recording  | Bagley             | May 14, 2018 |

### OLD BUSINESS – SMITH LOT

|  |
|--|
| DISCUSSION   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Site Visits</b>– Jeremy Turner and Cathy Neal (UNH Cooperative) visited the Smith Lot on April 25. Meeting was a good exchange in regards to Turner’s cutting plans (critical issue was location of the logging trail to be used for additional timbering). Once this location was set, discussion proceeded with meadow concept and orchard (apple and chestnut) locations. Outcome was that the meadow might best be planted in strips running along the contours of the land (alternating flower/space/flowers). Ryan clarified that these strips would be east/west, with each strip approximately 30 feet wide.</li> <li>- On April 27<sup>th</sup> Sullivan County Forester Dode Gladders and Tim Fleury from Merrimack County visited the site. Upon their recommendation, the proposed area to be stumped was moved further away from the forest to the south and the area on the southeast that will be used as a dump for stumps and slash. Wood was going to lay out location of trees in orchard and mark the area. Turner will work with those who can remove the stumps for quotes, and, be in position at next meeting to discuss cost and initiation of effort.</li> <li>- <b>Date for re-blazing</b> – From past discussions, it was suggested to consider Smith Lot as a trainee exercise for blazing. If this exercise goes well, then could potentially take on the Town Forest. Group decided to hold re-blazing on June 16<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) starting at 9am. Meeting at Smith Lot parking.</li> <li>- <b>Authorization for paint/brushes (\$30)</b> – Hocker asked for a motion to make available 2 pints orange paint and brushes for re-</li> </ul> |

blazing. Nagy made a motion and Kaszeta seconded. **Unanimously Approved & Accepted**

- **Date to build Kiosk for Smith Lot (Laura/John)** – No additional information at this time.
- **Date for honeysuckle removal (July)** – Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> with start time of 9am. Will take place at Smith Lot parking area. Chainsaws welcome.
- **Open Topics** – Ryan asked about the mention by Wood in his email that he marked out 20 chestnut trees, with the concern that we could only batch order 50. Hocker noted that there is the potential for lesser expensive chestnuts (2-3 year old growth) that may be coming from Mid-Atlantic retailer to local Walmart. Hocker continues to follow this lead. Next Ryan asked about the large soil pile near the parking area. Hocker stated that he believed that the soil may be a product of the loggers' actions to try and get wood out this past winter. Hocker and Ryan discussed that it would be best to talk with Turner about this. Lastly, Ryan asked about the pile of rejected logs in the Southwest corner of the property and what to do with these. During the April 25 visit to the lot, Turner had stated that the rejected logs would remain where they are and that the stumps and slash removed from the meadow site would all be placed in a brush pile in the depression to the north of the logs. Nagy and Hocker both pointed to the positive side that leaving the logs to decay would create livable habitat for fauna in the area.

| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
|--------------|--------------------|----------|
|              |                    |          |

**OLD BUSINESS – SHORELINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS – NAGY/Larrabee**

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

**OLD BUSINESS – HUNT FOR GRANTHAM HISTORY – KASZETA**

| DISCUSSION  |                    |          |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| Kaszeta created a draft of the scavenger hunt documentation, did a pre-prep and created a photo of each area. Would like to get over to school by Memorial Day. Will discuss with Susan. Questions are structural at this point. Will make a website and track from there. Rich will update to include a "team" in the instructions. Ryan suggests that it would be helpful to reread all the way through to clean up any ambiguous points, such as Leavitt area (i.e. can I get two points for one picture). Hocker's wife reviewed, very impressed and mentioned the reaper and has information how that got there. There are 3 little libraries. Who was the 1 <sup>st</sup> Levitt in the US (Christopher). Turn off is vague and may put up temp sign for Leavitt Hill Road to point correct direction. May send to Historical Society to review. Buchanan will take copy to the schools (middle and elementary). Old Home Day is the deadline to complete. Send to Melissa and Laurie McClory for the highlights. |                    |          |
| ACTION ITEMS  | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Complete final draft of documentation   | Kaszeta            | 5/27/18  |
| Coordinate with GVS and Lebanon Schools   | Buchanan           | 5/27/18  |

**OLD BUSINESS – FLEWELLING MONITORING DATES (OCT/NOV)**

| DISCUSSION  |                    |          |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| Hocker discussed that the Selectmen accepted responsibility of monitoring the property when it was originally conserved, but that over time this was delegated to the Conservation Commission. Once a year the GCC attempts to walk the property to see activity that the owner has engaged in. In the past some owners were happy to show updates. The new owner seems reasonably willing to work the GCC. Hocker noted that Wood would like to remove the chain and take down "Logging in Progress" signs that were previously placed on the property. Hocker tabled the establishment of the date until Wood returns, and, a relationship has been better defined between GCC and current property owner. Of note, Hocker briefed the group that there is a \$4500 trust fund from Flewelling when the land as trusted, and this has never been touched, noting potential uses for bridge over old damn, updating the Fay Road, etc. Hocker went on to note that Fay Road is in rough shape, and, some trails are blocked by downed trees. There is concern about forest fires, and if the local FD could get to the site of the fire. In the current condition, Hocker voiced that he did not feel that the area was passable, except possibly by a four-wheel drive vehicle. Nagy asked if this is something we would wait until fall to address, or, should we address sooner. Hocker leaned to sooner. |                    |          |
| ACTION ITEMS  | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
|   |                    |          |

**OLD BUSINESS – DRAGONFLY HUNT - NAGY**

|   |                           |                 |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>   |                           |                 |
| Nagy discussing possible locations with Andy Deegan from Ausbon-Sargent but currently no update. Possible locations include cemetery by Stocker Pond, town property on Juniper Hill, Newhall Property on Route 10 South, ponds below Grantham Indoor and Miller Pond on the Flewelling property. Nagy will discuss possible locations with Deegan . |                           |                 |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b>   | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b> | <b>DEADLINE</b> |
| Consider alternative locations  | Nagy                      | 5/7/2018        |

**NEW BUSINESS – CORRESPONDENCE - Hocker**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hocker asked if there was any further business. There being none, Nagy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. and Buchanan 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, June 4, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Eryn Bagley  
 Grantham Conservation Commission Clerk