

Grantham Conservation Commission

MINUTES

JUNE 4, 2018

300 ROUTE 10 SOUTH, GRANTHAM, NH

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

Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, June 4, 2018 at 7:01 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 MAY 7, 2018 MEETING

DISCUSSION		
Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft minutes of the regular meeting for the April 2, 2018. Grammatical errors were presented and updated real time during the meeting.		
Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the May minutes, as modified. A motion was made by Buchanan; 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	Bagley	June 8, 2018

OLD BUSINESS – SMITH LOT

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal for stumping / tree hole prep – Turner – Turner was unable to attend this meeting. Wood noted that Turner specified there has been one contractor (HB Logging LLC) who has visited the lot and given a reasonable bid for \$5,000 which would include stumping the 1.3 acres/push carry all stumps and Harley rake area to prepare for seeding. The same contractor proposed similar work using a York rake, at a quoted rate of approximately \$3,800. Wood and Turner both recommend the more expensive option because of the superiority of the seed bed after Harley raking. It was noted that there were other individuals who were interested in completing the needed site work; however, one person was not qualified and the other was grossly out of price point. <p>Wood had spoken with an ecologist in Wisconsin (Prairie Nursery) and Neal (at UNH Cooperative) about spreading pelletized dolomite lime in the proposed meadow area to raise the pH, currently 5.35-5.55. Prairie Nursery said that they could provide a selection of flowers that would tolerate the low pH, but a greater variety of flowers would be available and they would be healthier if the pH were 6-6.5. To reach that pH, approximately 4.5 tons of dolomite lime will be needed. The cost for the lime and spreading is uncertain, but will be less than \$3,000.</p> <p>Nagy asked when we would need to lime again after the initial spreading, Wood noted potentially never, with the thought being to let the meadow select the surviving species naturally. Wood noted that he was unsure of the native pH of that soil which might be unusually low because it had been a white pine forest.</p> <p>Larrabee noted that surgical liming works well (i.e. put down when putting down bedding plants), and being selective in areas</p>

rather than performing blanket coverage. He also noted that they have used ash in the past, which may be a less expensive avenue to research. Wood responded that outside the stumped area we would not spread lime, but he did suggest to lime apples surgically when planted.

Buchanan suggested that may want to specify the desired final pH in the contract. Wood disagreed, suggesting that the contractor cannot be responsible for the final pH, rather the GCC should specify that 4.5 tons of dolomite lime to be applied. Other question is when to add? Because it is recommended to distribute the lime into the top 6 inches of soil, applying it before the Harley raking seems logical; however, Turner has pointed out that the Harley rake will also concentrate the lime at toward its trailing edge. Therefore, Turner recommends applying the lime after Harley raking. Wood recommended that we accept Turner's recommendation because it will be at least 3 months between the liming and seeding that will give nature to let it work in.

Wood to suggested that Turner contract with the contractor that he (Turner) feels is most appropriate for this job, and, to grant Turner up to \$8,000 to pay for the stumping and liming – Motion was made by Kaszeta and Buchanan seconded. *Unanimously approved and moved to reimburse from the Town Forest Maintenance Fund.*

Ryan asked if there was a profit was made from the logging? Wood, responded that approx. \$4,000 was received by the town.

As an aside, Wood commented that Neal had sent customized flower seed mix (rich mix flowers low in grass 2:1 flower to grass) approx. \$2400 per acre and because only half the area will be seeded in flowers, the total cost should be roughly half.

- **Confirmation of re-blazing date/time** – Time set and confirmed for June 16, 2018 at 9 AM.
- **Date to build kiosk for Smith Lot - Laura, John** – John plans to have Eastman's Youth Conservation Core construct and place the kiosk on 9th and 10th July. Would like 2 uprights to be natural timber uprights. The kiosk will have Lexan/Plexiglas facing. Loggers coming back in next week to for finish work/clean up. After that is done, then review kiosk location. The option to use steel post holders was suggested, and Kaszeta said he has some that could be used. Ryan asks how the siting should be done. Kaszeta suggested that during the work party the group could determine the kiosks location, and, this was agreed.

ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Initiate stumping and liming	Turner	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – HUNT FOR GRANTHAM HISTORY – KASZETA

DISCUSSION		
Scavenger hunt website is live! The information is with the schools and with the town of Grantham. Nagy asked if someone had publicized with Eastman. Nagy will follow up with Lorie McClory to submit for Eastman.		
Kaszeta asking for \$13.00 to reimburse for website domain, Buchanan made a motion to reimburse, and, seconded by Nagy. Unanimously approved to reimburse from current supplies.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Contact Laurie to publicize with Eastman	Nagy	10Jun2018

OLD BUSINESS – FLEWELLING MONITORING DATES (OCT/NOV)

DISCUSSION		
Wood has asked Melissa to contact Anders Høglund or send address at which he can be contacted. Høglund had expressed concern that he was not invited to the monitoring in 2017 and would like to be included. State recommends that property owner is invited as well. Peter noted that Melissa asked that the GCC suggest 3 dates. Wood responded that we would like to accommodate the land owner by asking him to pick a convenient date between mid-Sept and Oct 24.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Invite Høglund to monitoring	WOOD	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – DRAGONFLY HUNT - NAGY

DISCUSSION
Andy Deegan and Nagy visited numerous sites, including Newhall home. Deegan found larva at Newhall Property and confirmed

date as July 31 st and rain date of August 2 nd , both at 2pm. Nagy checking that Ausbon has marketing material. Wood suggested advertising Grantham and Eastman. Nagy agreed and will follow up.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Checking Ausbon for marketing materials	Nagy	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – SHORELINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS – Nagy/Larrabee

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

NEW BUSINESS – Ruger / Dillon property

DISCUSSION		
<p>Hocker went to Registry of Deeds and pulled deed between Ruger and Dillon. In reading the deed there was no concrete costing “in consideration of clause”. It was noted that Ruger paid \$5625.00 as transfer tax, and using simple math, Hocker estimated that the transaction was over \$300,000. It was asked if there has been any other transactions by Dillon or Ruger in Sullivan county and answer was no.</p> <p>The Intent to Cut filed with the town worked out to approx. \$186,000. Hocker pointed out that a second Intent to Cut will need to be filed next year. Hocker noted that it is unclear whether logging will be done north of Sawyer Brook. Dillon’s forester is Ted Tichy, who was past Head of Fish and Game Commission. Hocker estimated that residents can expect to see approx. 14 trucks per-day traveling Dunbar Hill Road.</p> <p>The role of the GCC was then discussed. Nagy noted that Andy Deegan had suggested contacting the State’s forest ranger so the State is aware of concerns. Peter Garland noted that state engineers/road agents/ reps had met with Tichy late last week. State was present, and, one person was revenue agent. Brook, Tichy said he would file a plan to preserve the wetlands. Wood noted there is a large wetland on the property and that we should be careful to assure that proper buffer is preserved. Wood questioned if should consult a wetland expert. Buchanan noted that the Nature Conservancy may be willing to team with us to review. Rep would be happy to come and discuss with us. Hocker suggested using the Grantham Newsletter as a vehicle to let the town know what is going on. Wood noted that Ruger owns 2 additional properties in Grantham and that the GCC might want to determine whether they are for sale.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Follow up with State Forest Ranger	Nagy	July 2, 2018
Seek advice from Nature Conservancy	Buchanan	July 2, 2018
Determine plans for additional Ruger properties in Grantham	Wood	July 2, 2018

NEW BUSINESS – Earth Day 2019 - John

DISCUSSION		
<p>Larrabee noted that the next Earth Day is April 22nd (Monday 2019) and suggested that we have citizens get involved. Two activities are typical of Earth Day: inter-community groups to clean up litter on roads and planting trees. John suggested involving citizens in adopting the apples and chestnut trees on the Smith Lot: helping to plant, water and weed them. Larrabee is hoping that Garden Club will take the lead but that the GCC could assist. John asking if GCC is interested. Wood thinks wonderful idea and would be great PR for Smith Lot.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Plan GCC involvement in 2019 Earth Day	Larrabee	April 22, 2019

NEW BUSINESS – Olde Home Day

DISCUSSION		
<p>Nagy, Buchanan, Wood, Kaszeta available, and Hocker has display. Susan asked about printing some of Hocker’s wildlife photos. Scavenger hunt is the highlight. Will work in shifts, Hocker will be there all day, Ryan unsure of his schedule, Kaszeta and Buchanan are available in AM, Nagy afternoon, Wood all day. Larrabee not able to attend.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

None		
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NEW BUSINESS – Little Library - Kaszeta

DISCUSSION		
Kaszeta may be getting a little library and GCC will need to think of a place to put this should this happen.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

NEW BUSINESS – Reimbursement - Larrabee

DISCUSSION		
Larrabee asked for \$87.18 in reimburse for stain and brushes for the picnic tables at Brookside Park. Buchanan made a motion to reimburse, and, seconded by Nagy. Unanimously approved to reimburse from current supplies.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

HANDOUTS/ACTIVITIES

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Kaszeta moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. and Ryan 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, July 2, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Eryn Bagley
Grantham Conservation Commission Clerk