

Grantham Conservation Commission

MINUTES

JANUARY 7, 2019

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	David Wood
COMMISSION MEMBERS	David Wood, Sue Buchanan, Dick Hocker, Laura Nagy & Dennis Ryan
ABSENT	Rich Kaszeta
SELECTBOARD REP	Peter Garland
OTHER VISITORS	Sheridan Brown

Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, January 7, 2019 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 DEC 3, 2018 MEETING

DISCUSSION		
<p>Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft minutes of the regular meeting of December 3, 2018. Several corrections were presented and updated real time during the meeting.</p>		
<p>Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes, as modified. A motion was made by Nagy; seconded by Buchanan. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.</p>		
<p>Unanimously Approved & Accepted</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Approved minutes will be submitted for posting	Wood	Jan 8, 2019

OLD BUSINESS – FISHER LOT

DISCUSSION	
<p>Purchase of soft mast seedlings: The option to purchase seedlings from the NH State nursery was discussed and rejected.</p>	
<p>Apple Purchase: Wood reported that he has ordered 2 Williams Pride, 2 Liberty and 3 Chrestnut Crabapples from Heritage Farms, Godfrey, IL, for approximately \$190 including shipping.</p>	
<p>Chestnut Purchase: Hocker confirmed the decision to contact Walmart alerting them to our desire to purchase a number of chestnuts with the plan to use Buchanan’s trailer for pick-up.</p>	
<p>Fisher cemetery: Ryan plans to contact Warren Legacy, Cemetery Sexton for Grantham, to arrange for a visit to the Fisher cemetery in the spring. Once a proposal for renovation is complete, the plan will be taken to the Selectboard for approval and publically advertised.</p>	
<p>Fencing: Pricing has not yet been attempted.</p>	
<p>Signs: Wood reported that the welcome sign had been edited further by Brooks McCandlish and Melissa White, then sent to Anders Höglund for final approval. The proposal is to mount it on the gate at the bridge. Information is needed from John Larrabee to determine how to proceed with the directional sign.</p>	

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Initiate contact with Warren Legacy	Ryan	Feb 4, 2019
Obtain sign approval from Hogle	Wood	Feb 4, 2019
Determine status of directional sign	Wood	Feb 4, 2019
Determine the cost for solar powered electric fencing	Kaszeta & Hocker	Feb 4, 2019

OLD BUSINESS – Shoreland Cutting Applications

DISCUSSION		
Nagy reported that another application had been completed.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Ryan plans to attend the next wetland rules event	Ryan	Jan 10, 2019

OLD BUSINESS – SCAVENGER HUNT

DISCUSSION		
Item skipped in Kaszeta's absence.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Assure upload to the web	Kaszeta	Feb 4, 2019

OLD BUSINESS – WARRANTS FOR TOWN MEETING

DISCUSSION		
Following some discussion, it was agreed to limit the request for funding of the Land Preservation CRF to a minimal amount listed among the other CRF warrants.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Continue discussion with the Selectboard	Wood	Jan 9, 2019

NEW BUSINESS – MEMBERSHIP VACANCY

DISCUSSION		
Wood noted that John Larrabee has submitted his resignation from the commission. Recommendations were solicited for possible replacements.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Contact potential candidates to replace Larrabee	Wood	Feb 4, 2019

NEW BUSINESS – DILLON PROPERTY

DISCUSSION		
<p>Sheridan Brown updated the commission on the plans for the purchase of the Dillon property. Because Dillon has now agreed to sell the property at a price equal to the assessed value, it is possible for The Conservation Fund and Ausbon-Sargent to partner with Grantham, and because the closing has been delayed until July, the carrying costs of the project will be less than originally anticipated.</p> <p>Sheridan further recommended that a warrant be added at Town Meeting authorizing the CC to expend for the purchase of land in cooperation with other "qualified organizations" and to purchase land outside the boundaries of the town as permitted by RSA 36-A:4-a II. Because of the cost reductions discussed above, expenditure of GCC funds will likely not be needed, but passage of the proposed warrant would expedite the process if additional funds were required. After some discussion, his recommendation were unanimously supported by the commission.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Draft the above warrant	Wood	Feb 4, 2019
-------------------------	------	-------------

NEW BUSINESS – PUBLIC ACCESS TO STOCKER POND

DISCUSSION		
<p>Hocker reviewed his findings regarding the possibility of creating a public access to Stocker Pond from the south. Currently, there is a right-of-way connecting Stocker Pond Road to lot 243-003 and a small boat launch area. The use of the land is complicated by the rights of abutters concerning the use of the right-of-way and by access rights deeded to Stocker Pond Rd property owners. Brown suggested that it may be easier to create a public access by renewing the negotiations concerning lot 236-011 at the northern end of the pond. Given the complexity it was agreed to table the effort.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

NEW BUSINESS – ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

DISCUSSION		
<p>NHACC: The 2019 membership to the NHACC is due. Buchanan moved that \$275 be expended from the GCC operating budget to pay the membership. Hocker seconded.</p> <p>Unanimously Approved & Accepted</p> <p>UVLT: Nagy moved that the GCC renew its participation in the Upper Valley Land Trust with a payment of \$100 from the GCC operating budget. Buchanan seconded.</p> <p>Unanimously Approved & Accepted</p> <p>UVTA: Considering the lack of involvement the GCC has had with the Upper Valley Trails Alliance in the last year, it was agreed to suspend further payment to the organization.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Request payment of \$275 to NHACC	Wood	ASAP
Request payment of \$100 to UVLT	Wood	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – ROADSIDE FORESTRY

DISCUSSION		
<p>Scenic Road Designation: Brown noted that only Burpee Hill and Miller Pond Roads are designated as scenic roads in Grantham. Adding others would provide the Town with the ability to review the removal of roadside trees by utilities. He noted that Dunbar Hill Road might be a candidate.</p> <p>Tree Warden: Brown also noted that, given the anticipated invasion of the emerald ash borer, it might be prudent to survey Grantham to identify potentially hazardous trees.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Reconsider the above suggestions	All	Feb 4, 2019

HANDOUTS / ACTIVITIES - NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Nagy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 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, February 4, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wood
Grantham Conservation Commission Chair