

Grantham Conservation Commission

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 4, 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, Dick Hocker, Rich Kaszeta, Laura Nagy & Dennis Ryan
ABSENT	Susan Buchanan
SELECTBOARD REP	Peter Garland
OTHER VISITORS	Craig McArt

Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, February 4, 2019 at 7:08 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 JAN 7, 2019 MEETING

DISCUSSION		
<p>Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft minutes of the regular meeting of January 7, 2019. 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 Hocker. 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	Feb 5, 2019

OLD BUSINESS – FISHER LOT

DISCUSSION	
<p>Fencing: Kaszeta has estimated the cost of electric fencing to protect the orchard to be approximately \$1,000. Wood made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$1,000 to be withdrawn from the Conservation Fund to support the purchases. Ryan seconded. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.</p>	
<p>Unanimously Approved & Accepted</p>	
<p>Sherwood Forest Welcome Sign: Wood provided examples of the appearance of alternative sign dimensions; the commission unanimously preferred the 26x38" sign to the smaller 14x20".</p>	
<p>Directional Sign: John Larrabee has agreed to make the pointer sign to be installed at the Fisher lot driveway. The commission reviewed the design again and agreed to use the designations suggested in November with the addition of distances. There will be a title plaque reading "Grantham Nature Areas" with pointers reading "Parking", "Fisher Meadow Trails", "Sherwood Forest Trails - 0.1 mi" and "Grantham Town Forest Parking - 0.7 mi".</p>	
<p>Public Notification: Garland recommended that the GCC prepare posters showing all the conserved areas in Grantham for display on the GCC website and at locations such as the Dunbar Library and Town Hall. He further suggested consideration of a sign for the Grantham Natures Areas at the Miller Pond Rd/Rt 10 intersection.</p>	
<p>Chestnut Purchase: Hocker asked for and received approval to purchase 15 chestnut trees from Walmart in the spring.</p>	

Fisher cemetery: Ryan has contacted Warren Legacy, Cemetery Sexton for Grantham, concerning repair of the Fisher cemetery and received support after giving assurance that there will be no cost to the cemetery committee. Ryan also received an expression of interest from the Grantham Girl Scouts to adopt the cemetery as a community service project. Ryan will next contact Warren Kimball.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Initiate purchase of electric fencing	Kaszeta	March 4, 2019
Initiate purchase of Welcome sign	Wood	March 4, 2019
Contact Kimball re: Fisher cemetery	Ryan	March 4, 2019

OLD BUSINESS – Shoreland Cutting Applications

DISCUSSION		
Nagy reported that two applications had been completed.		
Kaszeta has volunteered to replace Nagy as a reviewer of cutting applications (see below).		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Involve Kaszeta in the next cutting application review	Ryan	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – SCAVENGER HUNT

DISCUSSION		
Kaszeta has sent a reminder to post the information on the GCC website. All materials are now at the Dunbar Library.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Assure upload to the web	Kaszeta	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – WARRANTS FOR TOWN MEETING

DISCUSSION		
The warrants for Town Meeting were reviewed. Requests for the purchase of the Sawyer Brook Headwaters and adoption of RSA 36-A 4 a and b are included. No additional funding for the Land Preservation CRF is on the ballot.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

OLD BUSINESS – ROADSIDE FORESTRY

DISCUSSION		
<p>Scenic Road Designation: Following up on Brown's recommendation at the January GCC meeting that the town designate additional roads as scenic roads, Hocker volunteered to look into the regulations and benefits.</p> <p>Tree Warden: Following up on Brown's recommendation at the January GCC meeting that the town create a survey of trees that might pose a hazard following the EAB infestation, Wood agreed to contact the County Forester to learn about the experience of towns already experiencing the ash die off.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Report on scenic road designation	Hocker	March 4, 2019
Report on EAB experience in NH	Wood	March 4, 2019

NEW BUSINESS – MEMBERSHIP VACANCY

DISCUSSION		
<p>Wood noted that, in addition to the vacancy created by the resignation of John Larrabee, Laura Nagy will be moving to Hawaii and has submitted her resignation. Several individuals have been approached as possible replacements, and Craig McArt has agreed to serve if approved. Craig noted that he considers membership on the GCC to be an extension of his work with the open space committee but noted that at 83 his ability to do physical work is limited. Wood noted that, despite Craig's caveat, he has built many trails in Eastman. The committee unanimously supported Craig's addition to the committee. Hocker suggested that Ted Fantl might be interested in membership if other candidates currently considering membership decline.</p> <p>Laura Nagy had been serving as the GCC representative to Ausbon-Sargent Land Preservation Trust and together with Dennis Ryan taken responsibility for the approval of cutting applications. As the replacement for Laura, Rich Kaszeta agreed to serve with Dennis to review cutting applications. Wood announced that Sheridan Brown has volunteered to serve as a Grantham representative to Ausbon-Sargent and has promised to keep the GCC informed.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Request appointment of McArt to GCC	Wood	March 4, 2019
Contact additional potential candidates	Wood	March 4, 2019
Notify Town Hall of change in recipients of cutting applications	Wood	March 4, 2019

NEW BUSINESS – UPCOMING EVENTS

DISCUSSION		
<p>Wood reminded the commissioners that the Budget hearings will be held at 5 PM at Town Hall on Wednesday, Feb 6, and participation of commissioners would be welcomed.</p> <p>Wood also asked for volunteers to help with the sled dog racing on Saturday, Feb 16. Details of the event are on the Snow Duster website. Kaszeta and Ryan hope to be available.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

HANDOUTS / ACTIVITIES - NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Nagy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 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, March 4, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wood
 Grantham Conservation Commission Chair