

# Grantham Conservation Commission

## MINUTES

MARCH 4, 2019

300 ROUTE 10 SOUTH, GRANTHAM, NH

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Chairman David Wood
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission
<b>FACILITATOR</b>	Chairman Dave Wood
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	David Wood
<b>COMMISSION MEMBERS</b>	David Wood, Dick Hocker, Rich Kaszeta, Craig McArt & Dennis Ryan
<b>ABSENT</b>	Susan Buchanan
<b>SELECTBOARD REP</b>	Warren Kimball
<b>OTHER VISITORS</b>	Sheridan Brown, John Eylander; Pavel Zagadailov

Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, February 4, 2019 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 FEB 4, 2019 MEETING

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft minutes of the regular meeting of February 4, 2019. Several corrections were presented and updated real time during the meeting.		
Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes, as modified. A motion was made by Kaszeta; seconded by Hocker. 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>
Approved minutes will be submitted for posting	Wood	ASAP

### OLD BUSINESS – SAWYER BROOK HEADWATERS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Sheridan Brown reminded the GCC of the hike sponsored by Ausbon-Sargent into the Sawyer Brook Headwaters on March 9 at 1:00 PM and asked for assistance with parking. Wood volunteered. Brown has prepared postcards encouraging a Yes vote on the warrant article to purchase the property and plans to make phone calls as well. He is also prepared to speak to the article and to the articles adopting RSA 36-A 4 a and b that expand the Commission's right to support land purchases. Additional hikes onto the property, especially focused on bird life, are being planned for the spring.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None		

### OLD BUSINESS – FISHER LOT

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
<b>Fencing:</b> Kaszeta has received some of the materials required, but chose to defer a vote to reimburse.		
<b>Logging:</b> Wood announced that logging is not likely to occur this winter. Jeremy Turner believes that the final selective cut on the Fisher lot is only economical if combined with the larger cut planned for the Town Forest.		

**Directional Sign:** After further consideration, it was agreed to utilize the white lettering on brown format used by other nature organizations for directional signs. McArt provided several options. It was agreed to abandon the previously discussed pointer sign at the Fisher lot in favor of the new format. It was further agreed to title the area "Northwest Grantham Trails", rather than "Grantham Nature Areas".

**Chestnut Purchase (post meeting):** Hocker announced that Walmart has not yet determined how many chestnut will be delivered this spring. McArt noted that the Eastman Charitable Foundation is also interested in purchasing chestnuts. The two efforts might be combined.

**Fisher cemetery (post meeting):** Ryan asked Warren Kimball, chair of the cemetery committee, whether he had any objections to the plan to improve the cemetery. Kimball responded he had none and offered the possibility that the cemetery committee might provide funding to repair the grave stones.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Provide models of possible direction signs	McArt	April 1, 2019
Discuss chestnut purchase with ECF	Hocker	April 1, 2019

**OLD BUSINESS – Sherwood Forest Welcome Sign**

DISCUSSION
The Welcome sign has been made. Wood asked for approval for reimbursement up to \$80 for the sign and mounting hardware. A motion was made by Kaszeta and seconded by Ryan. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.
<b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b>
ACTION ITEMS
None

**OLD BUSINESS – Shoreland Cutting Applications**

DISCUSSION
No applications were received this month.
ACTION ITEMS
None

**OLD BUSINESS – ROADSIDE FORESTRY**

DISCUSSION
<b>Scenic Road Designation:</b> Hocker provided copies of RSA 231:157 and 158 regarding the process required to designate a road to be scenic and the protections such designation provide regarding large trees and stone walls. Brown suggested that a tree warden might be hired to determine whether there are trees in Grantham that should be protected by the scenic road designation. A warden might also provide an inventory of ash trees that would be potentially hazardous once killed by EAB.
<b>Inventory of Hazardous Trees:</b> At the recommendation of Dode Gladders, Wood contacted A.J. Dupere to learn about Concord's response to the EAB infestation. Several dozen potentially hazardous trees have been removed, but Concord does not appear to have a schedule for further removal nor a clear plan to pay for removal. Wood's efforts to learn EverSource's policy for tree removal have not yet received a response.
ACTION ITEMS
Explore mechanisms to inventory hazardous trees
Explore EverSource's policy for tree removal

**NEW BUSINESS – MEMBERSHIP VACANCY**

DISCUSSION

Wood announced that John Eylander has expressed an interest in joining the GCC. Wood asked John to introduce himself. John most recently served as the chair of the Grantham School Board. He explained that his professional interest is in environmental science and that he has acquired some familiarity with environmental regulations. He holds a bachelors and masters degree in meteorology and has worked for the last several years at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) in Hanover where he has designed a model of climate and weather used by NASA. With funding from the Army, he is currently working to complete his PhD at USD in Rapid City, South Dakota and will be unable to take an active part in the GCC until June but would like to join the commission when he returns to Grantham.

Kaszeta moved that the Commission vote to recommend John to the Selectmen for appointment to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Hocker. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.

**Unanimously Approved & Accepted.**

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Request appointment of Eylander to GCC	Wood	ASAP

**NEW BUSINESS – PUBLIC RELATIONS**

DISCUSSION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
McArt offered mockups of two logos that the commission might want to adopt and a brochure introducing the trails off Miller Pond Rd. Discussion of the suggestions was deferred.		
None		

**NEW BUSINESS – UPCOMING EVENTS**

DISCUSSION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
The following events were noted: - March 9 1:00 PM hike to Sawyer Brook Headwaters - March 12 7:00 PM Town Meeting - March 13 7:30 PM Dode Gladders on forest ecology at Eastman Center - March 19 7:00 PM “Natural Resources, Local Economies and Climate Change” at Hypertherm - March 20 7:30 PM Ausbon-Sargent full moon hike to Clark Summit		
None		

**HANDOUTS / ACTIVITIES - NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Kaszeta moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. and McArt 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, April 1, 2019, no fooling.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wood  
 Grantham Conservation Commission Chair