

Grantham Conservation Commission

MINUTES

AUGUST 5, 2019

300 ROUTE 10 SOUTH, GRANTHAM, NH

MEETING CALLED BY	Chairman David Wood
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission
FACILITATOR	Chairman David Wood
NOTE TAKER	David Wood
COMMISSION MEMBERS	Rich Kaszeta, Craig McArt, Dennis Ryan & David Wood
ABSENT	Susan Buchanan, John Eylander, Dick Hocker,
SELECTBOARD REP	None
OTHER VISITORS	None

Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, Aug 5, 2019 at 7:02 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 JUNE 3, 2019 MEETING

DISCUSSION		
Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft minutes of the regular meeting of June 3, 2019. Ryan and McArt requested changes.		
Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes as revised. A motion was made by McArt; seconded by Kaszeta.. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.		
Unanimously Approved & Accepted		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Approved minutes will be submitted for posting	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – Fisher Lot

DISCUSSION
<p>Flowers and Clover: Wood announced that he had met with Cathy Neal from UNH and Dode Gladders, Sullivan County Forester, at the Fisher lot. Cathy was able to identify 8 species of the flowers seeded in November albeit in lower numbers than had been hoped. She recommended that the field be mowed in the next several weeks, that further efforts to hydroseed clover should be abandoned, and that the clover should be hand seeded this fall after Aug 15. Wood discussed the latter recommendations with the clover supplier (Merit Seed) who concurred. Consequently, a letter was sent on July 29 to Liquid Lawn, the hydroseeder, requesting reimbursement of the \$3,950 overpayment. Wood stated that Dick Hocker has agreed to York rake the area to be seeded and dates of Aug 21, 23 and 24 were selected as possible if they meet with Dick’s schedule.</p> <p>Apples: Cathy Neal was very concerned that the apples had been planted too deeply and strongly recommended they be replanted with the fibrous roots only an inch below the surface. Dave then contacted the supplier (Heritage Farms) whose owner (Patrick Gibson) opined that the trees would grow new feeder roots where they want them and, if the trees do die, he will replace them at no charge. Subsequently, Dave dug off the overlaying dirt on each of the apples until he reached either fibrous root or new feeder roots, resulting in the removal of 4-8” of dirt. He suggested that, given that the trees were producing shallow feeder roots, that some of the overburden could be removed, that the trees appear healthy and that the supplier will replace trees that die, replanting the apples does not seem prudent at this time. The other members agreed.</p> <p>Mowing: Estimates to mow the Fisher lot were received from Daren Patton of Springfield and Ed Buckman of Grantham. After discussion a motion was made by Wood to accept the bid of Ed Buckman because it was lower, he is a resident of Grantham, and he did the extra work to look into the availability of wood ash. It was seconded by Ryan. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.</p> <p>Unanimously Approved & Accepted</p>

Watering: Wood has moved the generator, extension cord and gasoline to the Fisher lot and asked that other members assist in keeping the trees watered during the dry summer. Ryan and McArt agreed to meet Wood at Fisher on Tuesday to learn the procedure.

Cemetery: Ryan noted that involvement of the Girl Scouts has terminated because their leader has moved from Grantham. In their absence, he has erected an iron fence donated by Bonnie Kimmelman of Lebanon, NH around the grave site. Additionally, Ryan has erected two varnished signs directing hikers to the cemetery and announcing its location. He noted that there are believed to be five bodies buried at the cemetery. Record of two is carved into the boulder and the inscription is available through the Historic Society and is posted at the Fisher kiosk, although the carving is mostly unreadable. The record of two more, also known, is indistinct on two broken headstones. Ryan will ask the Cemetery Committee whether they are willing to pay to renew the stones themselves and/or to create a plaque conveying the historic information.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Confirm seeding dates with Hocker	Wood	ASAP
Notify mowing contractors of choice	Wood	ASAP
Contact Cemetery Committee about renewal	Ryan	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – Shoreland Cutting Applications

DISCUSSION		
Eight applications were received and approved this month and one is outstanding. Wood noted that Eastman is in the process of revising its criteria for approval of shoreland cutting and the proposal is to require a score five times the score required by the Town under RSA 483-B. If Eastman adopts the new scoring, Wood opined that it is redundant for GCC members to review a cutting proposal from Eastman. Ryan suggested that under that circumstance the GCC should explore asking the Selectmen to designate Eastman’s Environment Control Committee to approve cutting applications to the Town.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

OLD BUSINESS – Town Forest Logging

DISCUSSION		
Wood distributed the map of the planned harvest on the Town Forest and explained the proposal by HB Logging to improve the extension of Miller Pond Road to Four Corners to accommodate the equipment. The estimate calls for Grantham to pay 20% of the cost of the road improvement with the remainder to come from the proceeds of the logging. Approval by the Select Board is required, and the question was put to the committee whether to recommend approval to the Board. After considerable discussion, it was agreed to seek further information from Jeromy Turner, the town forester, and ask Jeromy to attend the September GCC meeting.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Review GCC questions with Turner	Wood	ASAP
Determine whether the road repair will benefit Grantham Emergency	Wood	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – Wetland Mitigation

DISCUSSION		
Wood announced that Kennebec, the new owner of the Grantham lumber mill, is interested in expanding their operation and will need to mitigate a wetland fill of up to an acre. In consultation with Hocker, Wood suggested three areas that might be worthy of consideration by the company to purchase for mitigation.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Kaszeta moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 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, Sept 2, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wood
Grantham Conservation Commission Chair