

# Grantham Conservation Commission

## MINUTES

AUGUST 3, 2020

300 ROUTE 10 SOUTH, GRANTHAM, NH

MEETING CALLED BY	Chairman David Wood
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission - held electronically
FACILITATOR	Chairman David Wood
NOTE TAKER	David Wood
COMMISSION MEMBERS	Susan Buchanan, John Eylander, Rich Kaszeta, Craig McArt, Dennis Ryan & David Wood
ABSENT	Richard Hocker
SELECTBOARD REP	Peter Garland
OTHER VISITORS	Emily Owen (web conference host)

Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, August 3, 2020 at 7:20 p.m. The meeting was conducted electronically.

Wood opened the meeting with the following statement: "As Chair of the Grantham Conservation Commission, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically, and these reasons shall be reflected in the minutes.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are providing public access to the meeting by telephone and other electronic means. Notice of the meeting was given, as required by RSA 91-A, and included details for participating in the meeting. Members of the public will be invited to speak and recognized by the Chair. If, at any time during the meeting, there becomes a problem with access please call 603-863-6021 or email at: [info@granthamnh.net](mailto:info@granthamnh.net).

Let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. Would each member state their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is also required under the Right-to-Know law."

### Roll Call

Buchanan - present and alone  
Eylander - present and alone  
Hocker - absent (joined later)  
Kaszeta - absent (joined later)  
McArt - present and alone  
Ryan - present and alone  
Wood - present and alone

Are there others participating this evening? If so, please state your name and address.  
Peter Garland, 25 Catamount Rd., Grantham - present and alone

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

DISCUSSION	
<p>Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modifications to the draft minutes of the regular meeting of June 1, 2020. Corrections were recommended by Buchanan. There being no other corrections, Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes as revised. A motion was made by McArt; seconded by Eylander. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.</p> <p><u>Roll Call</u> Buchanan - yes Eylander - yes McArt - yes Ryan - yes Wood - yes</p>	

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Approved minutes will be submitted for posting	Wood	ASAP

**OLD BUSINESS – TOWN FOREST**

DISCUSSION		
<p><b>Revision of Miller Pond Rd/Mountain Rd:</b> Wood announced that Melissa White is working with HB Logging to prepare a contract for the required renovations to Mountain and Miller Pond Road.</p> <p>It has also come to the attention of the Town that Miller Pond Road was designated as a Scenic Road during the Town Meeting of 1971. This finding may complicate the removal of the trees required to relocate the electrical pole at the access point to the Town Forest. RSA 231:158 requires the approval of the Planning Board following two public notifications before trees are removed from a scenic road. To date, Selectman Garland has been unable to determine whether all of Miller Pond Road, including the class VI portion, was so designated, nor is it clear whether the trees in question are on Miller Pond Road or Mountain Road. Garland recommended that representatives of the GCC and Planning Board look at the site and determine whether approval by the Planning Board is required.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Coordinate with the Planning Board	Wood	ASAP

**OLD BUSINESS - SAWYER BROOK HEADWATERS**

DISCUSSION		
<p>Wood reminded the commission of the concerns voiced by Ausbon Sargent and Sheridan Brown about the posting of trail information on Trail Finder but added that, in appreciation of the contribution of the taxpayers of Grantham toward the acquisition, he believes information about the trails in the Sawyer Brook Headwaters should be made available to the town. In response to the option to create a brochure, McArt opined that it is expensive to reprint a brochure and, if new trails are to be built, a brochure might soon be out of date. Wood noted that preliminary discussions with Trail Finder personnel leads him to believe that posting the draft link on the Grantham website would violate the grant supporting Trail Finder. The commission agreed to prepare a simple map and description that might be posted on the GCC web page if that is acceptable to Ausbon Sargent.</p> <p>McArt accepted the responsibility to look into where new trails might be built in SBH pending approval by Ausbon Sargent.</p> <p>Prior to the meeting, Hocker had sent photos of two sites on the Old Dunbar Hill Road that need repair. It was agreed to ask Hocker to coordinate the needed repairs with the Blue Mountain Snow Dusters.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Create a draft map and description of SBH	Wood	ASAP
Plan new trails in SBH	McArt	ASAP
Discuss repair of Old Dunbar Hill Rd with BMSD	Hocker	ASAP

**OLD BUSINESS – SHORELAND CUTTING APPLICATIONS**

DISCUSSION		
<p>Several applications for tree removal in Eastman have been received, and all have been approved.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

**OLD BUSINESS – INSPECTION OF ROUTE 10**

DISCUSSION		
<p>Wood reported that on July 16 Hocker, Ryan, Renee Gustafson and he walked the portion of Route 10 south of town to the Grantham boundary looking for potential wetland impact and removing invasive plants in the areas impacted by the planned installation of new guard rails along the road. No reason was found to delay the planned installation, and it was agreed there was no need to send a confirmatory letter to NHDOT.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

None		
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**NEW BUSINESS – PERAMBULATION**

DISCUSSION		
Kaszeta reported that he is in contact with our abutting towns to determine their interest in perambulating the boundaries.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Organize perambulation	Kaszeta	2021

**NEW BUSINESS – SHORELINE PROTECTION VIOLATION**

DISCUSSION		
Kaszeta reported that he filed a complaint with NHDES concerning a potential violation of the shoreline protection along the Sugar River. NHDES will follow up.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

**HANDOUTS**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

If permissible, the next meeting of the Grantham Conservation Commission will be held in person in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room. Because Labor Day falls on Sept 7, it was agreed to postpone the meeting to Monday, Sept 14, 2020 at 7 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Buchanan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm; Kaszeta seconded the motion.

Roll Call

- Buchanan - yes
- Eylander - yes
- Kaszeta - yes
- McArt - yes
- Ryan - yes
- Wood - yes

Respectfully submitted,

David Wood  
 Grantham Conservation Commission Chair