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**Town of Grantham
Grantham Conservation Commission**

MEETING MINUTES

May 16, 2016

Chairman Richard Hocker called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, May 16, 2016 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.

Present: Chairman Richard Hocker, Dennis Ryan, John Larrabee, Susan Buchanan, Rich Kaszeta

Meeting minutes: Nikki Arsenault

Absent: Laura Nagy, David Wood

Members of the Public: Sheridan Brown – Select Board Representative to the Conservation Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE

Approval of Minutes for the April 18, 2016 Meeting

Chairman Hocker asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modifications to the draft meeting minutes for the April 18, 2016 meeting. The following clarifications and modifications were suggested:

David Wood submitted several changes to the minutes electronically using track changes, which the commission reviewed.

A motion was made by Kaszeta to approve the April 18, 2016 minutes as amended by David Wood; second by Buchanan. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.

Unanimously Approved & Accepted

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

OTHER BUSINESS

Brookside Park:

Trail Activities – During the last meeting there were several signs and funding for said signs approved. Chairman Hocker suggested that the Commission look at this packet of materials and send any comments, changes or suggestions to Wood by June 1, 2016. Buchanan asked for confirmation in

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looking at the electronic version of the signs that the layout as shown, with a set of large (title) text followed by a short description and/or photos, would be the layout of the signs. Hocker confirmed that that is what Wood has proposed. Buchanan commented that she would like to see a sentence or two (“a main idea”) in addition to the QR code in order to assist the park visitors who will not have a smart phone or do not wish to use one. She added that it would also be nice for the history of the fairgrounds to somehow be included and where that particular sign will go; since there is a Grantham Fairgrounds bridge abutment, the commission may want to consider where the sign will be placed. Chairman Hocker noted that because Wood is out of town there will likely be further work done upon his return.

Bridge Construction – Kaszeta updated that the east and west bank foundations have been poured. There are now two very firm and sturdy foundations on both sides. Kaszeta added that the next thing on the agenda is that the beams from Barker Steel which will arrive on Monday. Kaszeta has tires for their support and he will inspect the beams upon their arrival. He will likely need one or two volunteers on Monday but probably not on Wednesday. The timing will be 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. on Monday. For Wednesday, he is currently unsure of the timing. Hocker noted that the porta-potty will be delivered on Tuesday. Chairman Hocker has arranged for the use of this from May 24th through Labor Day. They gave GCC the discounted price that they normally charge the town. Kaszeta provided receipts for reimbursement. He added that the bulk of the materials have now been purchased. The majority of the work now will be in the drilling and the assembly.

Buchanan questioned which dates the SCA will be available and working. Ryan noted that they will be commuting during the period to accomplish the rigging work. Kaszeta added that we will try to finish as much of the construction as possible before they arrive for trail work. Buchanan then confirmed with Kaszeta that the SCA will place the i-beams and then GCC and volunteers will resume and finish the construction. Volunteers will be needed during the first three weekends in June. He will send out a detailed email to the group pertaining to this matter. Chairman Hocker noted that the truck with the fill would likely need to arrive prior to the third week in June with material to fill the dips in the trail. There will likely be 3 or 4 truckloads of fill needed. If necessary, they can leave some of the fill in the maintenance yard and the remaining amount can be delivered in order to be installed onsite by SCA. Hocker noted that additional larger rocks for trail liners will be needed. Kaszeta and Buchanan both offered that they have rocks that can be made available for the project. Hocker added that he has a trailer available that can be used for this project.

Chairman Hocker asked for a motion to approve the expenditure of \$967.36 from general funds in order to reimburse Kaszeta.

Ryan offered a motion to approve the expenditure of \$976.36 from general funds in order to reimburse Kaszeta.

Larrabee seconded the motion to approve.

Unanimously Approved & Accepted

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Cost Elements:

(Refer to the cost spreadsheet provided by Chairman Hocker.)

Hocker referred to the Upper Valley Trails Alliance payment in the amount of \$100 – Buchanan noted that the motion was approved to become members of the UVTA, but that the letter provided states that this amount was a gift. The amount stated on the letter is correct, but follow-up may be needed to confirm that this will include the desired membership.

Hocker announced that the payment to Kaszeta for reimbursement for the purchase of materials in the amount of \$285.27 should also have been processed. Kaszeta confirmed that this payment had in fact been processed and received.

Hocker continued:

Riggers (removal from the truck): \$900

Signage: \$450

Porta-potty: \$240

Stone dust (final surface materials for trail): \$1,600

Bank stone: \$200

Hocker noted that \$4,000 was placed in the upcoming year's budget to pay for the Public Works stone delivery. Ryan noted that someone should be in charge of where the trucks deliver the stone. Kaszeta added that there is also an old part of a stone foundation in the parking area; Hocker noted that it would likely be best to bury this part of the foundation as he is unsure how deep the foundation is. Hocker also added that there would be the issue of the drainage from the main road. Larrabee noted that it would be important to assess the culvert so that the materials on the bank don't get washed into the river. Discussion ensued regarding the swail and the culvert and the run-off of storm water. Buchanan questioned the likelihood of a storm that would create water movement that would be strong enough to wash away materials. Larrabee noted that this is likely an EPA violation. Hocker added that if Larrabee would be able to take a look at it he may be able to glean more information. Buchanan questioned if the piles could instead be stored further north of their current location to further prevent any damage from happening to them.

Kaszeta noted at this time that he will likely have an additional upcoming expenditure of \$480 in materials. Buchanan sought confirmation that the amounts approved today are not included in the documents provided; Hocker confirmed this statement. Hocker added that depending on when GCC terminates the contract, the porta-potty cost could potentially be an additional \$20-\$40 per month if needed. Hocker added that the current use account will be overdrawn by roughly \$1,800. Buchanan questioned why and Chairman Hocker clarified that based on the cost of the materials, the estimate for these materials was too low, so funds will just need to be re-appropriated. Buchanan questioned if it would be better to use the Byrne Foundation funds to cover this \$1,800 rather than general use funds. Chairman Hocker noted that he would work with Melissa White to confirm that this would be acceptable. Brown asked about the delivery of materials to the parking area and if there would be any

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police coverage needed. Kaszeta noted that the area was checked by the two companies involved and they confirmed that the space was adequate for them to complete the deliveries.

OTHER BOARD ACTIVITIES

Plainfield – Grantham Perambulation Report – Hocker noted that in 2010 the last perambulation was completed with Plainfield. On the 25th of April, Wood completed this task with the Plainfield crew and also sent a completed report. Two of the markers located had not been seen in many years. Ryan described the loop that they took in order to complete this task. This project is now considered complete for another 5-7 years.

Planning for Town trail map – Chairman Hocker announced that this project is still on hold until data is available. How we go about gathering this data is still under consideration. Buchanan added that some of the Open Space Committee members may also be willing to volunteer to assist with this project.

Miller Pond Bridge status – Hocker noted that late summer or early fall will likely be the completion date.

July 3-19th – Kaszeta will be on vacation.

Larrabee noted that on Thursday of this week he will be joining GVS's After School Program. He is considering asking 5th and 6th graders to join a "conservation corps" to get them started early and engaged. Children could participate in light trail clearing, roadside litter pickup, etc. It may even be a possibility to have these kids be eligible for community service hours. Buchanan and Ryan noted their enthusiasm for this idea. Chairman Hocker suggested types of trees that may be able to be best planted in this area. Ryan noted that with the construction of the bridge there will likely be an increased amount of litter that will need to be dealt with. With regard to the American chestnut trees, Brown noted that he sent a link to Chairman Hocker regarding this topic.

Brown noted that some time ago the GCC questioned the topic of purchasing a gate at the Stocker Brook address. He suggested that the best way to go about doing this would be to draw up a legal agreement. There will need to be some areas posted with signs in order to inform people that the property is private. Hocker noted that to the best of his knowledge, \$300 was allocated for this purpose. Brown noted that the first step they would like to complete is to create a physical barrier (the gate) and the accompanying signage. The gate would be unlocked for the time being. Buchanan noted that part of this cost would be the signage and Brown confirmed this to be correct. He will work on the legal aspect and then they will proceed with the gate and signage.

Ryan asked for clarification regarding the visit from Lionel Chute and commission members agreed to forward this information along to him.

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Buchanan reminded the committee that there was a prior visit from John Eylander and Karen Goldstein regarding the collaboration for the outdoor classroom at GVS. She spoke with John and this is still something they would like GCC to be a part of, as the project progresses.

Save the Date – June 11th Night Hawk watch – Alternate date will be the 25th. Grantham is one of the last towns in New Hampshire that is still a stronghold for night hawks.

HANDOUTS / ACTIVITIES

Cost spreadsheet provided by Chairman Hocker

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Hocker asked if there was any further business. There being none, Larrabee moved to adjourn the meeting and Buchanan seconded the motion.

The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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, June 20, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



Nikki Arsenault, Secretary