

# Grantham Conservation Commission

## MINUTES

JUNE 19, 2017

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	Nikki Arsenault
COMMISSION MEMBERS	David Wood, Richard Hocker, Dennis Ryan, Laura Nagy, Sue Buchanan, Rich Kaszeta
ABSENT	John Larrabee
OTHER VISITORS	The Grantham Master Gardener Interns: Renee Gustafson, Kristina Burgard & Patty Eaves

Chair David Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, June 19, 2017 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 MAY 15, 2017 MEETING

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft meeting minutes for the May 15, 2017 meeting.		
The following corrections were suggested:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nagy requested that at the top of page 2, the word "effect" needs to be changed to "affect". Under "Old Business - Pollinator Gardens: Discussion"... Nagy suggested identifying the group that applied for the grant as Master Gardener Interns. She also noted that the section regarding the "two trees" should read "two trees in the apple orchard at Brookside Park."</li> <li>Buchanan requested changing "Clorox" to "bleach".</li> </ul>		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
There being no additional changes to the minutes, Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the May 15, 2017 minutes as amended.		
A motion was made by Nagy to approve the May 15, 2017 minutes; second by Buchanan. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.		
<b>Unanimously Approved &amp; Accepted</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>		
Meeting minutes for this meeting will be completed within five business days.	PERSON RESPONSIBLE Nikki Arsenault	DEADLINE 06/26/2017

### OLD BUSINESS – PROGRESS ON POLLINATOR GARDEN AT BROOKSIDE – RENEE GUSTAFSON, PATTY EAVES, KRISTINA BURGARD – MASTER GARDENER INTERNS

<p>Renee introduced the concept of "Permaculture": No-dig garden – re-use and recycle – a "return to earth" approach The Interns will use a variety of approaches to best accomplish permaculture in the Pollinator Garden at Brookside Park.</p> <p>The Master Gardener Interns will host a kiosk with information and sign-up sheets for their July 13<sup>th</sup> event – they want to have a variety of projects at a variety of levels (guild plantings, nourishing the apple trees, making tea for the trees, bee hotels). The group shared their proposed vision and timing based on the handout they provided at the beginning of the meeting. For those not in attendance at the meeting but who are interested in this PowerPoint presentation handout, please email Nikki Arsenault at</p>
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[narsenault@granthamnh.net](mailto:narsenault@granthamnh.net). The Interns also announced that their grant was approved and they will use the funds prior to the end of the fiscal year (June 30<sup>th</sup>). Many additional topics were covered, including:

- They will build three Pollinator Gardens in the old apple orchard at Brookside Park, one of which is already complete.
- The kiosk is already built and will be installed soon.
- "Keyhole" bed planting – [click here for more information](#) – with the area being in a roughly circular planting area; this type of garden will be installed near the center clearing of the orchard.
- Sheet mulching – [click here for more information](#)
- Hugelkultur – [click here for more information](#) The raised Hugelkultur bed will create a berm at the entrance way. Down by the trail they will build another shaded bed of plantings; this will help people follow the path.
- Following a question from Buchanan, it was noted that the garden will mostly attract native bees and bumbles, but the flowers will benefit other species as well.

The Interns are also working to finalize their website "Wild Grantham"; this will be another form of outreach to the community. They will also add to trail maps; for now it will launch as a page for the above-mentioned projects as well as giving the opportunity to write on the blog portion of the site. GCC was given the opportunity to have administrative access to this site.

Wood asked whether "unwanted" slash piles be placed on one or two slash piles that will remain in place? (A: Yes, the current piles can be added to or extended; the goal is to remove slash from the center of the orchard.)

Wood asked whether the slash piles can be chipped. ? (A: No, the wood is too dry to chip.)

Wood asked if the crab apples the Interns hope to plant are susceptible to rust/mold/mildew (fungus)? (A: Some varieties are... there are also some natural ways to dissuade this type of problem. The Interns do want a natural approach to treating this if it should occur.)

Wood pointed out that soil samples were analyzed in 2016 and asked if another analysis is needed now or next year? (A: Yes - this is worth doing fairly frequently, even this year.)

**OTHER COMMUNITY NOTES**

A section of Brookside Park is now on Hiking Geek.  
The solar tracker is available to GCC if and when residents would like to use it (the Energy Committee).

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Sign up the Grantham Master Gardener Interns for a table at Old Home Day	Nikki Arsenault	Item complete
Pine tree needs to come down.	TBD	TBD

**OLD BUSINESS – SHORELINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS – NAGY**

**DISCUSSION**

The Sodano family of Eastman has submitted an application.  
Another one pending but has not been submitted yet.

**CONCLUSION**

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time.		

**OLD BUSINESS – PROGRESS OF EAB TOWARD GRANTHAM – NAGY**

Deleted: -

**DISCUSSION**

EAB has been found in Hill, NH. Once it hits Grafton County, the whole state will be quarantined. There is no funding available for EAB traps (purple boxes) this year.

**CONCLUSIONS**

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time.		

**OLD BUSINESS – PROGRESS WITH TRAIL FINDER – ALL**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Wood requested assistance in getting GPS data on trails from Blue Mountain Snow Dusters; Kaszeta agreed to follow up with his contact.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Kaszeta, as noted above.	TBD	TBD

**OLD BUSINESS – GVS TRAIL BUILDING COMMENTS – ALL**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
On June 17, volunteers, including five GCC members cleared a trails to the stream at the Grantham Village School. A second group cleared the upper loop trail. Wood added that the next effort will likely be to add a bridge in this area.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
TBD	TBD	TBD

**NEW BUSINESS – PARTICIPATION AT OLDE HOME DAY**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
The Conservation Commission decided that a table at Old Home Day would be appropriate: Purpose – awareness, projects, outreach GCC participants – Kaszeta, Ryan, Hocker (artifacts, notebook, Brookside Park stuff). Ryan further suggested taking some photos at GVS to show most recent progress completed on the trails. Wood noted that he will be at the OHD but may or may not be at the GCC table.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
GCC's to attend Old Home Day and host a table	Ryan, Kaszeta, Hocker, Wood	July 4 <sup>th</sup>

**NEW BUSINESS – OTHER**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Little Free Library signage – Wood displayed the sample sign. Wood noted that a Wetlands Dredge and Fill permits and a building permit at Stocker pond have recently been approved by the state.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None at this time.		

**ADJOURNMENT**

Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Nagy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 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, July 17, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nikki Arsenault*

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