

Grantham Conservation Commission

MINUTES

JULY 17, 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 – via recording
COMMISSION MEMBERS	David Wood, Richard Hocker, Dennis Ryan, Laura Nagy, Rich Kaszeta, John Larrabee
ABSENT	Sue Buchanan, Nikki Arsenault
OTHER VISITORS	N/A

Chair David Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, July 17, 2017 at 7:03 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 19, 2017 MEETING

DISCUSSION		
Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft meeting minutes for the June 19, 2017 meeting.		
The following corrections were suggested:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typos: Page 2 – Under bulleted points – kiosk line needs a space; Page 3 – Under Old Business – change “a trails” to “a trail” 		
CONCLUSIONS		
There being no additional changes to the minutes, Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the June 19, 2017 minutes as amended.		
A motion was made by Kaszeta to approve the June 19, 2017 minutes; second by Nagy. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.		
Unanimously Approved & Accepted		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Meeting minutes for this meeting will be completed within five business days.	Nikki Arsenault	07/24/2017

OLD BUSINESS – COMMENTS ABOUT OLD HOME DAY

OTHER COMMUNITY NOTES		
Old Home Day – Hocker noted that the crowd appeared to be larger this year; Ryan added that there were more parents who brought their children to the GCC table. Wood commented that it would be nice to have the tables facing out, rather than in, next year. Kaszeta added that the traffic flow was slightly odd, perhaps due to concerns about rain.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A		

OLD BUSINESS – SHORELINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS – NAGY

DISCUSSION		
<p>Nagy updated that there are seven new cutting applications; all but two have been reviewed by the Select Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strimple and Bowden – Road Round the Lake • Atherly – Anderson Pond Road • East Lake Condo Association • Fillion – Stocker Pond Road • Meyers – Loon Drive • Simon – Cherry Lane • Sodano – Road Round the Lake 		
CONCLUSION		
ACTION ITEMS		
None at this time.		
PERSON RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

OLD BUSINESS – STATUS OF SHERWOOD FOREST – WOOD

DISCUSSION		
<p>Chair Wood provided a brief update of the property at Sherwood Forrest and the matter of public access to the property. Selectman Brown sent a letter to the property owner regarding public access to the property and the property owner responded that he was unwilling to allow public access to the trail/property.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
This matter will be revisited as needed following guidance from the Board of Selectmen.		
ACTION ITEMS		
None at this time.		
PERSON RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

OLD BUSINESS – TRAIL FINDER GPS – WOOD

DISCUSSION		
<p>Kaszeta is working to obtain the trail coordinates from the Snow Dusters. He will continue to work on this and noted that he expects they will be sent to him by the end of the summer. Wood added that the Board is now in favor of adding the Eastman trail coordinates as well. He added that what Eastman puts on their website will need to be determined. Wood anticipates that Eastman's project will get done this winter. He would like GCC members to begin collecting GPS data as well so that Grantham's trails can also begin to go online this winter.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS		
Trail assignments		
PERSON RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Wood		TBD

OLD BUSINESS – LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES – LARRABEE

DISCUSSION		
<p>Larrabee updated that he used a plan and cut out the parts for each of the three little library structures; he received help from 12 Youth Conservation Corps students to assemble the three structures – one for the Dunbar Free Library (installed as of Saturday across from Rum Brook Market), one on the patio at Eastman's South Cove (nature theme), and one at Brookside Park (also a nature theme). He believes that the location of the library at Brookside Park should be close to the memorial bench; he will check with Renee as to the exact location of the pollinator garden, but he believes this will be the ideal location for the library. Larrabee added that he thinks that this library should be "closed" for the winter. Commission members agreed with Larrabee's suggestion for the location of the library at Brookside Park.</p> <p>Project receipts submitted for reimbursement:</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$97 for wood for the handicapped accessible table • \$22.99 deck screws • \$97.06 for stain and brushes • \$217.05 – total reimbursement requested 		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Hocker to bring the chainsaw to the Park to cut up the downed tree.	Hocker	TBD

OLD BUSINESS – HANDICAPPED SIGNAGE AT BROOKSIDE PARK – NAGY

DISCUSSION		
<p>Nagy noted that they had originally talked about creating a handicapped parking spot in the Brookside parking lot with the associated signage. Is this something they still want to do? Larrabee noted that he has spoken to people who did not realize that the trail itself was designated as a handicapped accessible trail, so adding signage may be of benefit. Ryan asked for clarification if they are considering a handicapped parking sign or a handicapped access sign. Kaszeta noted that they do make handicapped access trail signs; Wood added that it is important that this trail is designated as such, considering that this was the purpose of the original funding. With respect to facilities, Larrabee noted that he believes that a porta potty may not be a good idea and may in fact detract from the natural setting. Wood commented that while he appreciates the value of having a handicapped accessible parking spot, the size of the parking lot may not require it given that the area is small enough to navigate to the base of the trail without too much trouble. He added that unless someone approaches the Commission and expresses a need for this, he is inclined to not have it. Larrabee added that because there are no designated parking spots, the parking pattern is often determined by the first person to arrive at the Park. The Commission agreed that a handicapped accessible trail sign would be the best option at this point.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Kaszeta to order signage.	Kaszeta	TBD
A motion was offered by Larrabee to authorize the expenditure of up to \$40 for this purpose. Seconded by Ryan. All in favor.		

NEW BUSINESS – SCAVENGER HUNT – WOOD

DISCUSSION		
<p>Wood raised the question of whether or not GCC would like to sponsor/host a scavenger hunt at Brookside Park in celebration of the Grantham 250th Celebration. Discussion ensued regarding this topic it was ultimately decided that they would like to try to collaborate with the Grantham Historical Society to do a wider-range scavenger hunt not limited to Brookside Park; potentially a photo scavenger hunt. Wood then suggested that GCC go to the Lebanon and GVS schools to promote this.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Create a list of items for the hunt and contact the Grantham Historical Society	Kaszeta & Nagy	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – RECOMMENDATION FOR SUPPORT OF CLIMATE ACTION – WOOD

DISCUSSION		
<p>Wood announced that a couple towns have adopted a resolution to adhere to the Paris Accord, most recently Dover, and on Wednesday there will be a Climate Action Event at the State House. The League of Conservation Voters is likely the originating force behind this movement. Wood's view is that as an advisory group the GCC could encourage the Selectmen to adopt this resolution. He spoke with Selectmen Brown on this topic, and while Brown is very much in support of conservation, he is reticent to get the Selectmen involved in political issues and believes such a measure might jeopardize the town's current support for energy conservation measures. The Commission members tended to agree with Selectman Brown's view, but it was agreed to table the question pending consideration of the issue by the Grantham Energy Committee.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		

This agenda item will be tabled until next month. Discussion to resume at that time.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
GCC members will further research and consider this topic.	All	Next meeting

OTHER BUSINESS: WARRANT ARTICLE - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
Wood noted that there are a number of substantial properties that could be turned over in next several years and other towns have prepared for such acquisitions by passing a warrant that authorizes the Selectmen, under previously approved conditions, to issue a bond for the purchase of land without further voting by the town. He added that there is an advantage to having approved funding in advance. Selectmen Brown has noted his support of moving forward on this this year; Brown also noted that he could also be in favor of delaying a year. Wood asked if the Commission members are interested in pursuing it this year, and if so which steps should they take? Following a question from Larrabee, Hocker provided a history of the conservation easements in Grantham, and also identified properties of interest on the Town map. Nagy and Hocker both agreed that the GCC should move forward on this, especially considering the feedback from Brookside Park. The GCC agreed that it was important to make the case that the GCC can best use funds for land acquisition when the funds have already been approved.		
CONCLUSIONS		
GCC will move forward with research and further discussions and also discuss how to create a community conversation regarding this topic.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Further information regarding warrant articles will be submitted to Commission Members.	Wood	Next meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Larrabee moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. and Nagy 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, August 21, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Nikki Arsenault