

Grantham Conservation Commission

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 20, 2017

300 ROUTE 10 SOUTH, GRANTHAM, NH

MEETING CALLED BY	Chairman David Wood
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission
FACILITATOR	David Wood
NOTE TAKER	Nikki Arsenault (not in attendance – will transcribe from recording)
BOARD ATTENDEES	David Wood, Richard Hocker, Rich Kaszeta, Dennis Ryan, Susan Buchanan
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR OTHER BOARDS & COMMITTEES	N/A

Chairman Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, February 20, 2017 at 7:04 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 JANUARY 16, 2017 MEETING

DISCUSSION		
Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft meeting minutes for the January 16, 2017 meeting.		
No changes or corrections were provided for the January 16, 2017 meeting minutes.		
CONCLUSIONS		
There being no changes or additions to the minutes, Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the January 16, 2017 minutes as drafted.		
A motion was made by Kaszeta to approve the January 16, 2017; second by Hocker. 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	02/27/2017

OLD BUSINESS – STATUS OF TRAIL FINDER – WOOD

Wood noted that the proposed new trail "loop" has been sent to Trail Finder; everything is uploaded and looks correct. This trail loop is one that he is proposing to include on the day of the Snow Shoe Hike.

CONCLUSIONS		
Selectman Brown is currently in communications with the landowner.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time – Brown will be in contact with Wood.		

OLD BUSINESS – MARCH 5, 2017 SNOWSHOE HIKE - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
<p>Hocker noted that given the current snow cover conditions, the proposed trails may be difficult to walk on March 5th. Wood updated that with regard to renting snowshoes, Eastman Recreation will simply charge Wood's account when anyone rents snowshoes under the GCC group. Wood will then "settle up" with Eastman Recreation following the event. The Commission members agreed that this is a good idea.</p>		
CONCLUSION		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time.		

OLD BUSINESS – STATUS OF SMITH LOT LOGGING – WOOD

DISCUSSION		
<p>Wood announced that the papers have been signed and the variances are approved for this project. Buchanan asked for clarification on this, and Wood explained that special variances were needed from the DES due to the project's proximity to the road and also for the amount of acreage being clear cut. Hocker added the total acreage is approximately 29 acres but that the cut itself would be much smaller. Wood confirmed that the cut would be 4.5 acres plus the over story of the apple orchard. Following a question from Ryan, Wood confirmed that the distance was 50 feet from the road. Dennis then asked if this applied to Class 6 roads, given that there are two Class 6 roads running through the proposed logging area, and Wood confirmed that this type of road does in fact require a variance.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
<p>Hocker asked when the proposed start date for the project is, and Wood replied the first week in March (this assumes that the ground will be cold enough to complete the work as proposed.) When Turner informs Wood of the start date of the project, Wood will then contact the other GCC members.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time.		

OLD BUSINESS – SHORELINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS AND EMERALD ASH BORER PROJECT – NAGY

DISCUSSION		
<p>Given the absence of Nagy and Larrabee at this meeting, Wood noted that he is unaware of any current Shoreline Cutting applications.</p> <p>The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) project is on track. GCC is a co-sponsor for this event, and it will be held sometime in May at the Grantham Town Hall.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time.		

OLD BUSINESS – PURCHASE OF CHESTNUT SEEDLINGS – HOCKER

DISCUSSION		
<p>Hocker announced that the money has been approved. On the first, or shortly thereafter, he will order the 50 trees. Trees will be directed to his house on pallets. He agreed to attend to the trees until they can get them over to the Smith lot and Brookside Park. Others will be sold at the Plant Sale for May. Following a question from Wood, Hocker noted that the actual number of trees at each site can be determined at a later date.</p> <p>Buchanan noted that there would be plenty of people available to help move trees when the time comes. Hocker noted that it would be a good idea to get the community involved in planting the trees. Buchanan also offered the idea of having an event in tandem with the celebration of Arbor Day (April 28th). Following a question from Wood, Hocker noted that the annual Plant Sale is usually held on the third Saturday in May. Following a question regarding where the trees should be planted at Brookside, Wood noted that one site could be by the parking area (lots of light available without doing any clearing) and the other spot would be where the yellow trail closely approaches I-89. The site offers good western exposure; the disadvantage being that, if it attracts wildlife, it is very close to the road. Kaszeta added that the Emergency Rescue squad wants to use that area to access the park and the plantings might interfere.</p>		

CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Hocker will order the trees based on the timeline outlined above.		

NEW BUSINESS – OTHER

OTHER		
<p>Wood noted that he attended the recent Eastman Charitable Foundation dinner. He was pleased to meet members from other Conservation Commissions in the area. Trail Finder was discussed in terms of potential partnerships (Enfield). Kaszeta noted that they already have many of their trails on the site. The Charitable Foundation requested the names of GCC members to add to their website, which Wood provided to them. One other idea that of interest to Wood was expanding contact between the GCC and the school. Wood has asked Larrabee to follow up. Buchanan reminded the Commission that the outdoor classroom is available at GVS; she also shared about the Four Winds program which is currently taking place at the school.</p> <p>Legislation information (Wood): House Bill 467 was voted down 19-2. Senate Bill 48 (establishment of a Commission to review the operation of the Fish & Game) is currently under consideration. Wood asked the GCC if they would like to submit a letter in support of SB48 – Wood isn't sure if the Commission has the authority to do so as an entity. Hocker noted that they are an advisory group of citizens; the question is whether or not it will have an influence. Buchanan suggested contacting the Association of Conservation Commissions regarding next steps. House Bill 486 (designated wetlands 100ft buffer) was also discussed as a possible issue to support.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
Buchanan agreed to coordinate with the Four Winds Program Coordinator moving forward.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Follow up next month regarding reaching out to GVS.	Buchanan / Larrabee	
Write a letter in support of SB48 on behalf of the GCC.	Wood	
Write a letter in support of HB486 on behalf of the GCC.	Wood	

OLD BUSINESS – AUTHORIZATION OF THE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN - WOOD

DISCUSSION		
<p>Town Forest is composed of ten properties, one of which is 210-010-0000. This lot was given to the Conservation Commission by the Town. An update of the forest management plan is due for this property lot in 2017. Wood has been corresponding with Laura French regarding the possibilities of revising the FMP for the entire forest or only one lot, and French ultimately suggested “doing a field-review level update on the entire track which would provide the following: a review of current forest conditions, access and silviculture, etc; update the existing management plan which would meet the easement requirements and get new and improved information / planning components which have come up during the last 10 years of the plan, and; meet tree farm update status...” The revision would not include a new inventory.</p> <p>Based on this information, Wood was quoted \$2,600 to complete this for the entire property and \$1,900 for the single lot. Ryan questioned if there was work done under the current plan over the past ten years and Hocker confirmed that there has been work done.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS	<p>Wood asked for a motion to approve the expenditure of \$3,000 from the Town Forest Management Fund to complete the above-mentioned process on the entire track, without the inventory, as Laura French outlined.</p> <p>A motion was made by Buchanan; second by Kaszeta. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.</p> <p>Unanimously Approved & Accepted</p> <p>(Hocker suggested that the GCC schedule a day to walk this section of land in early Spring 2017.)</p>	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Wood will send the map associated with the forest management plan to GCC members. Wood will also add the “priority list” of management goals for the Town Forest to be incorporated in the new plan to the agenda for next meeting.	Wood	

CORRESPONDENCE – WOOD

DISCUSSION		
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Dredge & Fill Application: Wood noted that most of the significant dredge and fill work proposed by the state on I-89 will take place in Enfield. A small amount will also take place along the side of Brookside Park, and there is a significant amount up near Grass Pond. The work appears to be mostly preventative, and he believes the work should be approved.

Wood asked for a motion to approve the expedited application as submitted. Kaszeta made a motion to approve the expedited application as submitted; second by Ryan. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.

Unanimously Approved & Accepted

SPNHF: Wood noted that the second piece of correspondence is from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests asking the GCC to renew their membership. There are no dues; by donating, one receives a membership. Following some discussion, it was suggested to renew the GCC's membership from the Current Appropriation funds but to wait until next meeting so that Wood can first check the Fund balances.

CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Sign and forward Dredge and Fill application to Town Hall	Wood	
Check fund balances	Wood	

ADJOURNMENT

Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Buchanan moved to adjourn the meeting and Kaszeta 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, March 20, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Nikki Arsenault