

APPROVED

Town of Grantham Grantham Conservation Commission

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22, 2016

Mr. David Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:02 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: David Wood, Susan Buchanan, Laura Nagy, Rich Kaszeta, Dennis Ryan

Meeting minutes: Nikki Arsenault

Absent: Chairman Richard Hocker

Members of the Public: none

ADMINISTRATIVE

Approval of Minutes for the December 21, 2015 Meeting

Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modifications to the draft minutes for the December 21, 2015 meeting. The following clarifications and modifications were suggested:

Planning of town trail map - no response was received from Amber Boland at Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission or SPNHF.

The Blue Mountain Snow Dusters are under pressure to have its trails updated and/or made available in GPS-enabled format.

A motion was made by Kaszeta to approve the December 21, 2015 minutes; second by Nagy. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.

Unanimously Approved & Accepted

PENDING/OTHER BUSINESS

Brookside Park

Bridge Discussion – Funding for beam construction

Kaszeta noted that he has updated the design of the trusses and the drill pattern to go out to the fabricators (Barker Steel in Enfield). Minor measurement adjustments were made between Kaszeta and Hocker during their most recent meeting. Updates were then made to the design of the I-beams and the cross beams and these were sent to Barker Steel. Barker Steel returned with a quote of \$4,900. The order needs to be placed by April 1 in order for them to meet the delivery

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deadline. Kaszeta and Hocker completed a list of building materials and parts for the bridge; Kaszeta obtained a quote for these materials online using the Home Depot website in the amount of \$6,667. This amount includes the \$4,900 Barker Steel quote. Kaszeta noted that he would like to include a 20% additional allowance for any additional unforeseen parts and/or materials needed during the course of the project. With this 20% allowance, the total budget would be \$8,000. Kaszeta located a ¾ yard gas-powered mixer for the concrete, which should work and would be available for free from a friend. Nagy raised the question of whether or not the Commission might ask the Fire Department for assistance with the water needs for the project. Commission members will revisit this topic as the project progresses.

Kaszeta continued his updates noting that the concrete forms are complete. He still needs a drilling plan for them, but will spend some time in the CAD program completing these. Regarding the materials for the project discussed above, Kaszeta offered his barn as a place to store items until the project start date. He noted that he will need a drill press, but will likely be able to borrow one. The only other outstanding issue with regard to parts and materials is that he still needs to locate the 10x10x5 foot timbers for the footing for the eastern sill. He will ask around at the local lumber yards.

Wood noted that the Grantham Selectmen approved a budget of \$4,000, of which \$2,500 was designated for the bridge project and \$1,500 for trails.

Wood made a motion to approve the budget of \$8,000 of which \$3,500 will come from the amount approved by the Selectmen (“with the Grantham Selectmen to serve as agents to expend”), and the remainder from the Conservation Fund. Ryan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.

Unanimously Approved & Accepted

Trail Activities

Wood noted that he has been several times to try to clear the area in Brookside Park where the apples are to provide more light for that section of the trail. As part of the Pollinator Project, it may be possible to add some shrubs, perennial flowers, or a bee hotel to this area. At the sun rock where the trail splits and runs west, this section of trail is very wet and a decision will need to be made to either reroute, fill, or build a walkway over this section.

Buchanan noted that this may require a substantial amount of fill and may be cost prohibitive. Ryan noted that it may not be a bad idea to reroute the trail. The Commission will revisit this issue in the Spring to make a final decision.

Nagy noted that the following dates have been finalized:
May 25-27, 2016 – Crew to install I-beams
June 21 – July 1, 2016 – ADA accessible trail construction

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Buchanan noted that the Commission can clarify with the crew lead regarding what their water and bathroom facility needs will be during this time.

Pending: Nagy noted that Commission still needs to select a formal contact person for the project. This will be determined as soon as possible. Wood agreed to follow up with Melissa regarding this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Pollinators

Pollinators funding: Wood noted that the Eastman Charitable Foundation approved the request for \$667 to bring local pollinator experts to Grantham. They will visit March 10-11, 2016 and will include Troy Hull, Felicia Schwartz, Lionel Chute and Sara Zahendra. There will be day and evening activities and the speakers will focus on the topics of plants, bees, and the importance of native pollinators in our region.

Bee hotels: Possible locations could include Eastman, Brookside Park, and/or the blueberry patch by the park. It was reported to us that Selectman Brown had previously questioned the liability of this project and the issue of bee stings. Buchanan noted that signage would probably suffice and would help notify those allergic to bee stings.

Wood noted that he would like the Commission to support the purchase of shrubs and perennials. He would like the Conservation Commission to be listed as contributors supporting this effort. Wood then made a motion to approve \$250 in support of the Pollinator Program through 2016. Buchanan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.

Unanimously Approved & Accepted

It was noted that the Commission can revisit this at a later time if they wish to increase the amount of funding for this particular program.

Town Forest Activities

Buchanan noted that these activities are currently on hold but work can be ready to commence next Fall.

Recruitment

Commission agreed that the current balance of Eastman and non-Eastman members is good and that an additional member from Eastman could be considered. Commission members agreed to reach out to the following individuals to gauge their interest in joining: John Larabee, Beth Truax, Thane Allen and the Open Space Committee.

Planning for Town trail map

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Wood noted that people should be able to download the trail map and that it should be GPS enabled. The UNH Cooperative Extension is just now beginning its efforts to create a database of GPS enabled trail maps. Wood recommended that the Commission's efforts be placed on hold in anticipation of UNH's project. The Commission can still gather the coordinates and later "fold" that data into other larger projects.

Other

Wood noted that on February 25, 2016 at 7 p.m. a planning meeting will take place at Town Hall regarding initial discussion for Grantham's 250 year anniversary celebration. Ryan noted that he will likely be able to attend this brainstorming session as a Commission representative.

ADJOURNMENT

Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Wood moved to adjourn the meeting and Nagy seconded the motion.

The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 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, March 21, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



Nikki Arsenault, Secretary