

Grantham Conservation Commission

MINUTES

AUGUST 6, 2018

300 ROUTE 10 SOUTH, GRANTHAM, NH

MEETING CALLED BY	Chairman David Wood
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission
FACILITATOR	Chairman Dave Wood
NOTE TAKER	Eryn Bagley
COMMISSION MEMBERS	Sue Buchanan, Richard Hocker, Dennis Ryan, Laura Nagy & Rich Kaszeta
ABSENT	John Larrabee
SELECTBOARD REP	Peter Garland
OTHER VISITORS	Sheridan Brown

Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, August 6, 2018 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 JULY 2, 2018 MEETING

DISCUSSION		
Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modification to the draft minutes of the regular meeting for the July 2, 2018. Grammatical errors were presented and updated real time during the meeting.		
Wood announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the June minutes, as modified. A motion was made by Nagy; seconded by Buchanan. 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 prepared from the recording	Bagley	July 5, 2018

OLD BUSINESS – SMITH LOT

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of kiosk for Smith Lot - Compliments were extended to John Larrabee and the Eastman Youth Conservation Corps for the construction and set up of the kiosk at Smith Lot. Renee Gustafson and Laura Nagy are working on the content. They will finalize in the next few weeks. Wood noted that there are some ruts that will need to be fixed. Hocker suggested contacting the town road agent, Jeff Hasting, who may be able to help fix the rut (drop culvert/gravel coverage). Wood asked Hocker if he was able to locate the sign that used to hang in that area. Flower seeds from Prairie Nursery (\$1,513.32) – Wood placed the order for the flower seeds which will be mixed/shipped around the 1st of October. The planting layout was presented. Approval of herbicide application, < \$1,000 – A roadside applicator license is required to apply herbicide to public lands. Connor Tilton at Meadows End will do this work for less than \$1,000. Wood is waiting for more details from Tilton about how the application will take place. Brown voiced concern about impact to pollinators. Wood indicated that the mix would not impact the pollinators. Kaszeta made a motion to approve up to \$1,000 to be spent for the herbicide/application. Nagy seconded. Unanimously Approved & Accepted Approval of grass seed purchase (Ernst Solar Farm Mix, 125 lb., \$400) – Grass will need to be purchased. Wood recommended a mixture of fine fescues with 20% Kentucky bluegrass. Cost is \$296.00 plus \$100 shipping. Wood asked

for motion to purchase seeds. Motion was made by Kaszeta to purchase seeds up to a total of \$400. Hocker seconded.
Unanimously Approved & Accepted

- Preparation for seeding: A draft layout of the Smith Lot was reviewed in which four rows of wildflowers are to be surrounded by a 5-6 foot wide band of grass and the remainder of the area seeded with clover. In all cases, it is recommended that the seed be raked in and the soil compacted. Because the surface is covered with wood debris and rocks, Wood suggested that it would be best to rake the debris away, seed, then re-rake and roll. Wood estimates that pre-raking the ½ acre to be seeded with wildflowers will require 35 hours. Wood asked if the group was willing to make commitment to completing this work. It was agreed that each GCC member would devote 5 hours each and Wood provided a diagram of the area assigned to each.
- Method of seeding: Wood noted that the recommendation is to mix seed with a vehicle such as sawdust to achieve uniform seed distribution. Wood and Nagy will test the method.
- Recruitment of volunteers: Because the actual seeding is likely to take another 35 hours for each ½ acre, options to recruit help were discussed. Aaron Jenkyns is working to get in touch with the school kids. Wood suggested seeking volunteers from Hypertherm, Eastman, and the garden club. Buchanan asked if the YCC members would be willing to assist. The group will follow up with Larrabee.

ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Creation of display for kiosk	Nagy	Ongoing
Contact Jeff Hastings re: fixing rut and the sign for Smith Lot	Hocker	5 Sep18
Test sawdust as vehicle for seeding	Wood & Nagy	5 Sep18
Volunteer recruitment	Various	Ongoing

OLD BUSINESS – HUNT FOR GRANTHAM HISTORY

DISCUSSION		
Submissions continue to come in. 15 pins given away to date. A special announcement went out in town newsletter; Valley News has also reached out to Kaszeta for an interview and overview of the hunt. The hunt will continue to October at this point.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
NONE		

OLD BUSINESS – FLEWELLING MONITORING DATES (OCT/NOV)

DISCUSSION		
Waiting for Anders Hoglund, property owner, to provide a date when he is in town..		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Set monitoring date for Flewelling	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – DRAGONFLY HUNT - NAGY

DISCUSSION		
Hunt was highly successful. Large number of dragonflies were seen, and the event went very well. Thank you to the landowners. Brown has pictures to share with the group.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Get pictures from Brown	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – SHORELINE CUTTING APPLICATIONS – Nagy/Larrabee

DISCUSSION		
Three cutting applications were approved this month.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

NEW BUSINESS – SB365 and 446

DISCUSSION		
<p>SB365 - This bill requires electric distribution companies subject to the public utilities commission's approval regarding procurement of default service to offer to purchase the net energy output of eligible biomass and waste-to-energy facilities located in its service territory.</p> <p>SB446 This bill increases the electric generating capacity of customer generators who may participate in net energy metering and modifies the transition of tariffs applicable to certain customer-generators. The bill also clarifies the definition of eligible customer-generator for purposes of the utility property tax.</p> <p>Jeremy Turner, having reached out to Wood in email, has asked if the GCC would be willing to take a position on these two bills, which were vetoed by Gov. Sununu. Wood polled those present on their opinions if the Commission should render a clear stance on these bills.</p> <p>General consensus was that there remained a number of questions surrounding the impact of each bill. Nagy pointed out that the Commission is not empowered to represent the town.</p> <p>Wood suggested that if individuals want to contact representatives on their own they may; however, the Commission will take no action.</p> <p>Wood will forward email from Jeremy with the information</p>		
CEACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

NEW BUSINESS – Reimbursement of \$283.09 for Kiosk Materials

DISCUSSION		
<p>Wood asked for a motion to reimburse Larrabee the amount of \$283.09 for kiosk materials. Kaszeta made a motion to approve with Ryan seconding. Unanimously Approved & Accepted</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

At 8:18pm Kaszeta made a motion to go in to Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 Section II-d. This was seconded by Nagy.

Motion to Adjourn non-public session was made by Buchanan and seconded by Hocker at 8:40pm

A motion was made by Kaszeta for the sealing of Non-Public Sessions minutes and was seconded by Nagy.

Next meeting – Because first Monday is Labor Day, revised meeting time is Tuesday, Sept 4th at 7pm in Jerry Whitney Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wood asked if there was any further business. There being none, Larrabee moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. 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 Tuesday, Sept 4, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Eryn Bagley
Grantham Conservation Commission Clerk

DRAFT