

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting- March 20, 2014

Present: Valerie Germain-Chairwoman, John Baybutt, Joe MacGregor, Stephen Willette
Chairwoman Germain called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes from the February 20, 2014 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

2. Old Business

a. Greenfield-Bennington line Perambulation-

- i. John Baybutt presented a first draft of the Greenfield-Bennington Line perambulation to the Commissioners. Once the Commissioners complete the perambulation from Route 31 to the river, the perambulation report can be completed and submitted to the State.

b. Barry Conservation 4H camp-

- i. Joe MacGregor has spoken to two individuals, as neither individual is interested at this time in the 4H camp; information will be forwarded to the Bennington Library and the newspaper for applicants. The Commissioners will also include information regarding the camp in their opening statements for Earth Day.

- c. Joe MacGregor will contact Suzy Spikol from the Harris Center for creating a presentation for school age children.

- d. Chairwoman Germain will contact Denise French regarding accounts. The Commissioners would like to know the balance of the bank account and how much money has been deposited from land brought out of current use. The Commissioners would like to approach the Selectmen regarding their commitment to put \$2000 into the Conservation account.

3. New Business

a. Earth Day-

- i. Earth Day clean up will be held Saturday, April 19, 2014.
- ii. John Baybutt expressed his desire to expand Earth Day activities to more than trash clean up. The Commissioners agreed to contact Robyn Manley to see if a group could help her with getting the flower gardens ready.
 - 1. In future years, the Commissioners would like to clean up around Cold Springs Pond and plant some bushes there.
- iii. Leslie MacGregor is interested in doing another Story Walk in conjunction with Earth Day activities. The Story Walk would be to the book The Dandelion Seed. The Commissioners liked that the walk could draw more people to the Earth Day events.
- iv. Patrick Greene will be unavailable to help with the Earth Day breakfast as he is working that Saturday. He donated a waffle iron and waffle mix for the breakfast.

- v. The Monadnock Paper Mill will donate funds to go towards food for Earth Day.
 - vi. Chairwoman Germain will not be in Town for Earth Day activities, but will do the shopping for the Commissioners. She will take an inventory of supplies from last year's Earth Day prior to shopping as there is at least a case of trash bags still left.
 - vii. Stephen Willette offered his 20' X 30' tent. Stephen and Joe MacGregor will put it up prior to April 19, 2014.
 - viii. John Baybutt will look into purchasing shrubs for the VFW to be planted on Earth Day. Commissioners would like to use part of the day to continue working on eradicating the knotweed plant at the VFW.
 - ix. Commissioners will contact Rose Melanson about the activities to see if she is available.
 - x. Commissioners agreed the Earth Day banner should go up by April 1, 2014 to begin advertising.
- b. Chairperson Position-
- i. Chairwoman Germain expressed her need to step down from the Chair position as she feels she does not have the time she would like to put forth as Chair. The Commissioners discussed yearly rotating the position. The Commissioners thanked Valerie Germain for her service as Chair this past year.
 - ii. A motion was made for John Baybutt to become the new Chairman. IT was seconded and all were in favor.
- c. Joe MacGregor presented an opportunity to cosponsor a presentation by the University of NH Speakers Program with the library. The presentation would be focused on birds, bats, and butterflies. This is a free presentation, possible reimbursement for presenters travel expenses. One benefit of cosponsoring is the opportunity for more presentations and programs.
- d. John Baybutt presented Maps he received from the NRCS that show conservation land in Bennington and neighboring towns.
- e. Chairwoman Germain reported logging on Mountain Road. The Commissioners will contact Denise French if an intent to cut has been filed with the Town. The Commissioners will also ask that they be included in being notified of any future intents to cut. Commissioners will also ask when reclamation of land happens for the gravel pits.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary