

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting- April 17, 2014

Present: John Baybutt- Chairman, Valerie Germain, Jon Manley, Joe MacGregor,
Stephen Willette
Guest: Mike Roina (6:55 pm)

Chairman Baybutt called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

1. Minutes

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

2. Old Business

a. Greenfield-Bennington line Perambulation-

- i. The Commissioners will need to schedule a time to complete the perambulation from Route 31 to the river. Once the route is completed the perambulation report can be completed and submitted to the State.

b. Barry Conservation 4H camp-

- i. Joe MacGregor has spoken to two individuals. While both individuals thought this was a good opportunity, neither were interested at this time. Information will be forwarded to the Bennington Library and the newspaper for applicants.

- c. Joe MacGregor has contact Suzy Spikol from the Harris Center. Currently she is involved in area schools educating students in different units. She provided Joe MacGregor with Brett's contact information. Joe will contact Brett once Earth Day events are over.

- d. The Commissioners received an email regarding accounts. A deposit has been made with unexpended funds. The Commissioners will check the status and review statements regarding the Selectmen's commitment to put \$2000 into the Conservation account.

e. Timber Tax Revenue-

- i. Joe MacGregor and Jon Manley will look at Timber Tax and Gravel Tax RSA's for enabling legislation to allow for language that will allow Selectmen to move a portion of these taxes to conservation in order to purchase and secure land.
- ii. Down the road, Conservation Commissioners will need to write guidelines on how they intend the money to be used.
- iii. Jon Manley and Stephen Willette will do case studies of towns and how these funds from taxes are distributed.
- iv. The Commissioners end goal is to draft a letter to the Selectmen with their goals and visions.

- f. Earth Day-**
 - i. Earth Day clean up will be held Saturday, April 19, 2014.
 - ii. Commissioners discussed cleanup routes and started a list of routes that have been prescheduled by groups.
 - iii. Assignments for the day were agreed to.
 - iv. A pole saw and a load of woodchips will be delivered to the VFW for clearing knot weed.
- 3. New Business
 - a. Mike Roina, Fire Chief, approached the Commissioners regarding a water supply project he is in process of beginning with the Fire Protection Engineering Firm. The Firm will review targeted areas with the Fire Department and guide them with needs, scope of project, permit process, funding, etc. The Fire Department is currently looking into putting a fire pond located between Pine Meadow and North Bennington Rd. It is possible that there would be revenue raised from clearing trees when this happens.
 - b. Mike Roina, Fire Chief, also approached the Commissioners regarding prescribed fires. He proposed the Fire Department use the 26 acres between the Cemeteries on Stagecoach Road as an area for fire trainings. They would put in fire breaks. One benefit of these trainings, besides the training for the Fire Department, would be the opportunity to clean up the wood fuel from dead trees. This would also allow for the undergrowth to grow. As trainings are not set at this time for this area, Roina stated a possibility of 1 or 2 prescribed fires a year. The Fire Department would not be cutting down any trees. When time to cut trees is considered, Roina suggested collaboration with the Commissioners and the Fire Department to hold a Sawyer class. The Commissioners asked Mike Roina to return next month to their meeting with drawn up plans.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. for the Commissioners to set up for Saturday's Earth Day events.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary