

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting- September 15, 2016

Minutes Approved on-

Present: John Baybutt, Jon Manley, Stephen Willette, Joseph MacGregor, and Valerie Germain

Guests: Jeff Littleton- Moosewood Ecological

Chairman John Baybutt called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes from the August 18, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

2. NRI

- a. Valerie Germain welcomed and introduced Jeff Littleton from Moosewood Ecological.
- b. Jeff Littleton presented to the Commissioners the scope of the Natural Resources Inventory phase I tasks and the deliverable outcomes the Commissioners will have from each task.

- i. Task 1- Community forum to engage the community and identify perceived strengths and challenges of Town resources. The deliverable outcome will be a summary of the information collected and shared. Jeff Littleton will provide the Commissioners with a flyer that can be used to notify the community regarding the forum. The Commissioners will also place the information on the Town website, Town notice boards, and a press release in the newspaper. Valerie Germain will contact Pierce School to check the availability of the multipurpose room. The Commissioners discussed having refreshments available at the forum. The Commissioners set a tentative date of October 20, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
- ii. Task 2- Collection of data and studies already in existence. The deliverable outcome will be the preparation of a series of base maps of the Town. The generated maps will be prepared electronically.
- iii. Task 3- Prepare NRI Maps. The Commissioners and Jeff discussed which maps were of most importance for the Town in Phase I. It was decided to include the following: water, wildlife, ecological, conservation focus areas, and land in current use. Steve Willette shared with the Commissioners that the Town website has maps completed by Southwest Regional Planning. The Commissioners were unaware of these maps. It is important that the different Town boards communicate with each other. The maps were generated in 2002. It was felt that while the information on

these maps may be a starting place, the wetland maps may have significant changes. Jeff Littleton also noted that the maps from Southwest would be in a different format from the ones he would generate.

- iv. Task 4- Field Assessment. It was agreed that Jeff Littleton will complete one day of field assessment around the town of Bennington in order to use the second day for identifying current use land. Jeff Littleton will contact Kristie LaPlante regarding the tax map program, access to the tax maps, and locations of town and state properties. Jeff Littleton notified the Commissioners that he does not go on private property unless given permission from the land owner. He will let the Commissioners know when he will be completing the field assessment as several Commissioners expressed interest in joining him.
- c. The Commissioners discussed ways to highlight Phase I as they seek funding for Phase II. The work completed for Phase I will be completed in time for deliberative session held in February. The Commissioners also discussed the benefits of having the deliverables from each task completed available to present to the budget committee.
- d. Jeff Littleton will send an electronic contract to the Commissioners. Billing will be on a monthly basis and include the work completed thus far.
- 3. Invasive Species
  - a. Jeff Littleton notified the Commissioners that Douglas Cygan, Invasive Species Coordinator from the NH Department of Agriculture has identified Japanese Honeysuckle in Bennington.
- 4. Bruce Edes Walk
  - a. The Conservation Commissioners held the Annual Bruce Edes walk on September 10, 2016. Joe MacGregor reported that it was a nice group that came out for the walk. It was also noted that there was very little trash; however there is one location that has spray painted graffiti. Prior to the walk, a Commissioner noticed the maps in the mailbox were messy. In the mailbox other items were discovered and delivered to the police.
- 5. Chairman and member positions
  - a. Chairman Baybutt will continue as the Chairman through December 2016.
  - b. It was noted that there is one member position still open. The Commissioners discussed approaching individuals in Town to see if they would be interested.
- 6. Other business
  - a. Joe MacGregor and Jon Manley have worked on the bridge in the Forest in order to make it safer. Joe has the remaining boards necessary to finish the work on the bridge.
  - b. Joe MacGregor reported that he received a phone call from the project manager for the dam to receive permission with using the tracks to access the dam. Joe MacGregor put him in contact with Peter Leichman.
  - c. Notice was received from NHDES. A Wetland permit and non-sit specific permit for a temporary cofferdam was issued on August 31, 2016.

- d. An additional Wetland permit notification was received noting the sand for the Town Beach was denied.
- e. A notification was received from the Bennington Planning Board for Map 3, Lot 1 noting that the Harris excavation site was sold to D.H. Hardwick & Sons, Inc.
- f. A Notice of Decisions was received from the Bennington Planning Board noting the excavation permit was transferred from Harris to D.H. Hardwick & Sons, Inc.
- g. The NHACC Annual Meeting and Conference will be on Saturday, November 12, 2016. The Conference will focus on Mitigating present threats to the future forested landscape.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Bartlett

Conservation Commission Recording Secretary