

Town of Bennington
Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting- May 16, 2019
Minutes accepted- June 20, 2019

Present: Mike Munhall, Tom James, Joe MacGregor, and Jon Manley

Co-Chair Mike Munhall called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

1. Minutes
 - a. Jon Manley made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 18, 2019 meeting with an amendment. The motion was seconded by Tom James and all were in favor of accepting the minutes with an amendment.
2. River Committee
 - a. As the River Committee has not held their May meeting yet, there was no update from the River Committee members.
3. Town Newsletter
 - a. Mike Munhall asked the Commissioners for information to include in the Town Newsletter. The Commissioners would like to include information about the Earth Day event, the upcoming River Float, Rhubarb Festival, invitation for people to use the Bruce Edes Forest, and an invitation for people to join the Conservation Commission.
4. Old Business
 - a. Earth Day
 - i. The Commissioners discussed the Earth Day event. The Commissioners thought the breakfast was very successful. The Commissioners noted how many young people were able to take part in the event.
 - ii. Mike shared with the Commissioners a job list he created for the Earth Day event that the Commissioners will be able to use for future years. The Commissioners reviewed the list.
 - iii. Joe suggested that all items needed for the event be stored in the same location. At this time, many of the items are stored at the Town Hall on the stage.
 - b. Camp Scholarships
 - i. The Commissioners have given Camp Scholarships out to two students. The Commissioners goal with this scholarship is to allow a child who would not have been able to attend camp the opportunity to attend.
 - c. Invasive Species Signs Installation
 - i. Gary Russell has provided the tools needed to install the invasive species signs. Two signs will be placed at Whittemore Lake, and one at Powder

Mill. The Commissioners will keep two signs on hand for replacement or if other locations are identified that need signs.

- d. Tree Replacement at the Corner of the Bennington Garage
 - i. Joe reported that Denise French had contacted him yesterday in regards to replacing the tree at the corner of the Bennington Garage. The Commissioners will work with Brent Paradis to discuss replacing the tree. The Commissioners are looking for a tree that will not obstruct the view of vehicles/traffic. The Commissioners discussed some possibilities including a Bradford Pear tree or a shad bush.
- 5. New Business
 - a. River Paddle
 - i. The Commissioners set June 29, 2019 for the Annual River Paddle.
 - b. Trees by Fire Station
 - i. Mike reported that the maple trees by the Fire Station are dying. The Commissioners will recommend to Kristie LaPlante to replace the maple trees with lilac bushes.
 - c. Depot Improvement
 - i. Kristie LaPlante provided the Commissioners with a pest report for the VFW. The report states that there are carpenter ants at the VFW. The pest report noted that the carpenter ants may have come from the wood chips. The Commissioners noted that they have taken care of the wood chips.
 - ii. Mike reported that he has looked into having the VFW repainted. The quote for scraping, priming, painting and materials came to \$4200. The Commissioners will get more quotes. Kristie has asked that the Commissioners put forth a proposal for the VFW project in order for them to determine where the funds will come from.
 - iii. The Commissioners discussed improvements to the inside of the VFW. The Commissioners would like for the VFW to be cleaned up and renovated in order for people to be able to use it. The Commissioners understanding is that when the Town took over the VFW, it was with the agreement that the Veteran members would still have a place to meet. Mike will reach out to the members to open discussion with them.
 - iv. The Commissioners discussed removing the trash can and posting signs for carry-in, carry-out of the Bruce Edes Forest.
 - d. Perambulation
 - i. The Bennington-Deering line was identified as a perambulation that has not been completed in many years.
 - e. Potential Land Purchase
 - i. A Conservation Commission member received information of a possible land acquisition in Bennington.
 - f. Future agenda items
 - i. Goals and objectives for the year

- ii. How do we utilize and implement the NRI- should there be a formal presentation to the Selectmen (Planning Board, ZBA) to adopt as an official Town document?
- iii. Membership

Mike Munhall made a motion to adjourn. Joe MacGregor seconded the motion. As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Belcher
Conservation Commissioner Recording Secretary