

Groveton Conservation Commission

November 16, 2023

Meeting Minutes

- In Attendance:
 - Ed Mellett, Winston Hawes, Gordon Gray, Dale Covey
- Meeting called to order @ 7:00 PM
- The minutes from October 2023 were reviewed and approved. GG motioned to approve, WH 2nd. All approved.
- Ed mentioned the town is trying to “fix up” the train and caboose by the covered bridge. Courtney McLain is the chair of the committee responsible for the effort. The CC may want to consider contributing to the effort.
- Regarding the ROW across Charbonneau: Ed has been unable to get hold of Tim C. to confirm the town has a ROW across their property for winter logging access. Ed has drafted a letter that Liz Ball has typed for him (as CC chair) and mailed it to Tim. Laurra C told Ed that she has also passed the information to Tim. Dale mentioned that if we do not get a response that we should consider sending a certified letter – return receipt, to ensure we have made every possible effort to discuss the matter with Mr. Charbonneau.
- Regarding Proposed Timber Harvests: Greg Ainsworth has recommended we (the CC) perform a harvest on Bag Hill during the summer of 2024. Estimated cut = 1300-1500 cords. Estimated stumpage revenue = +/- \$50,000. He also recommends we perform harvests on the Watershed Forest over the course of two winters in 2024-24 and 2025-26. Estimated cut = 900-1000 cords. Estimated stumpage value +/- \$85,000. These harvests are prescribed in the recently authored 10-year forest plan.
- Winston mentioned that as we identify avenues for spending some of the present funds available in the CC accounts, we may want to explore some land purchase(s) if the location and value make sense. Dale mentioned that tax sales are often a good investment.
- The Conservation Fund balance = \$24,670.14
- Barry Conservation Camp: Press releases have gone out to the Democrat and Chronicle. The News and Sentinel will show the article next week. EM has received an email from Barry CC that they need a name by January 15th. We have received one application/letter of interest to date. The cost for one person for the camp this coming year will be \$600.00.
- Jennifer Caron from the Stratford CC wants to pass on some info she has gathered to/for our committee.
- Proposed budget for 2024:

◦ Bag Hill bridge safety rails:	\$ 900.00
◦ Ainsworth sale prep fees:	\$7,000.00
◦ NHCCA & NHTOA dues:	\$ 350.00
◦ Apple tree release/mowing:	\$3,150.00
◦ Barry Conservation Camp:	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
Total:	\$12,000.00

DC moved we accept the above budget as shown, 2nd by GG. All approved.

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- Ed mentioned the CC received a nice thank-you note from Matt Boivin who attended Barry Conservation Camp this past summer. Barry's tuition was covered by the Groveton CC.
- The next Groveton CC meeting is scheduled for December 14 at 7 PM at the town office.
- DC moved to adjourn, GG 2nd. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dale Covey