

## **TOWN OF GRANBY**

### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MEETING MINUTES**

**September 1, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Neil Hornish, Carolyn Flint, Susan Dwyer, and Anna Sogliuzzo

Also present was Ted Glanzer of the website thegranbyspatch.com.

#### **August 17, 2011 MINUTES:**

The minutes from the August 17, 2011 special meeting were reviewed by the Commission.

ON A MOTION by Ms. Sogliuzzo, seconded by Ms. Dwyer, the minutes from the August 17, 2011 Conservation Commission meeting were approved on a (3-0-0) vote. Ms. Flint was not yet at the meeting to vote when the minutes were reviewed.

#### **COMMISSIONER RESIGNATION:**

Ms. Reuben submitted her letter of resignation from the Conservation Commission to Chairman Hornish effective immediately. Commission members stated this is a loss as she was dedicated to the Commission's endeavors and was a very active member.

Mr. Glanzer of thegranbyspatch.com will comment in his article about this meeting that the Commission currently has three vacancies. Those residents interested in becoming a Commission member should contact either Chairman Hornish or the Republican/Democrat Town Committees.

#### **CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE:**

The Portfolio Manager database should be reviewed and completed by adding more up to date information. Chairman Hornish volunteered to meet with the Town Manager's office to collect recent statistics related to energy consumption in Town buildings.

Ms. Sogliuzzo will contact Ms. Reuben to get information on where the Task Force currently stands.

Chairman Hornish and Ms. Sogliuzzo will also contact Ms. Reuben about getting information on the Commission's grant money from the EPA Community Challenge / 20% by 2010 Campaign. At the next Conservation Commission meeting, the Commission agreed to discuss ways to use the money to encourage more clean energy sign-ups.

#### **CLEAN ENERGY FAIR:**

Discussion was held on whether the Commission should move forward with the fair for 2011 or wait until 2012. The Commission agreed holding the fair in 2012 would be

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beneficial and would give Commission members more time to plan the event. Ms. Sogliuzzo suggested holding the fair on or around Earth Day 2012.

### **NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY (NRI):**

Commission members will continue to edit the Natural Resource Inventory draft document. All revisions should be sent to Chairman Hornish who is editing the master copy.

Ms. Flint will contact the Granby Camera Club at their upcoming meeting or through email to request photographs of Granby's natural resources.

### **ENDER'S STATE FOREST:**

The Commission made final revisions to the letter Chairman Hornish drafted in regards to mowing the fields in Ender's State Forest. Ms. Dwyer suggested Chairman Hornish change the recommendation of mowing in the 'fall' to 'late fall' as mowing in late fall will be less disruptive to baby wildlife populations.

Chairman Hornish noted that in the State's report of Ender's State Forest that 15 acres should be harvested each year (1% per year). Chairman Hornish asked Commissioners whether this recommendation should be addressed in the letter to the State. Ms. Dwyer commented that harvesting a singular 15-acre area will disrupt wildlife habitats as well as the environment surrounding the harvest area (i.e. trucks and machines driving in and out of the forest). Instead, Ms. Dwyer commented, a certain tree species should be chosen each year to be harvested so as not to disrupt entire habitats. Perhaps the Commission should contact Bill Bentley, a local forester, for suggestions in regards to this recommendation.

Commission members were asked to send final revisions to Chairman Hornish by next week.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms. Flint asked whether other Commissions were doing anything for the Celebrate Granby 225 event. Chairman Hornish will contact Sue Christian in the Town Manager's office to find out. If other Commissions have a presence at the event, perhaps the Conservation Commission should too. This event would be an opportunity to promote the Commission and perhaps get interested residents to become Commission members.

It has been over a year since Chairman Hornish took the role of chairman for the Commission. In 2010 it was decided that this would be a rotating position. Currently, no other members would like to take on the role of chairman, so Chairman Hornish will continue in this position.

Chairman Hornish commented that the Town is considering buying a property across from Floydville Road, which has some considerable wetlands. The Commissioners would like to walk the area to review conservation issues on the property. Chairman

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Hornish will contact Mr. Francis Armentano, Director of Community Development, about this issue.

ON A MOTION by Anna Sogliuzzo, seconded by Carolyn Flint, the meeting adjourned at 8:23pm on a (4-0-0) vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Leveille  
Recording Secretary