



**BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
10 MAPLE AVENUE  
BEACON FALLS, CT06403**

**MEETING MINUTES  
January 9, 2018**

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Ruth Burritt called the meeting to order at **6:37 pm**.

Commissioners Present: Ruth Burritt, Bill Burritt, Mike Opuszynski, Ashleigh Doherty, Rich Minnick.

Commissioners Absent: Tonya Gutierro, Sophie Zyla.

**2. Announcements**

None

**3. Comments from the Public**

None

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Doherty moved to accept the minutes of December 12, 2017. Seconded by M. Opuszynski. All in favor. Motion passes 5-0.**

**5. Correspondence**

An email from S. Zyla was received and discussed re: the control of Japanese Knotweed. There was considerable discussion regarding different opinions on the use of various chemicals to control the Japanese Knotweed.

**6. Old Business**

1. R. Minnick made a motion to table the election of Vice Chairman. Seconded by M. Opuszynski. All in favor. Motion passes 5-0. (R. Minnick)

2. R. Minnick reports meeting with Jeff Smith & Steve Knapik of Smith Builders at Lantern Ridge Park to inspect and offer opinions on how to proceed with trail improvements. R. Minnick gave thanks to Mr.'s Smith and Knapik for their time and expertise. (R.Minnick)

3. There was discussion regarding the need to geo map the trails at Lantern Ridge park. (R. Minnick)

**R. Minnick made a motion to leave “Lantern Ridge Mapping & Kiosk Work” under “Old Business”. Seconded by M. Opuszynski, All in favor. Motion passes 5-0.**

**M. Opuszynski made a motion to spend up to \$200.00 to repair/replace/improve the kiosk at Lantern Ridge Park. Seconded by R. Minnick. All in favor. Motion passes 5-0.**

4. R. Burritt stated that perhaps an informational session in the future regarding Japanese Knotweed, open to the public, would be both informative and prove to be a good community outreach event. (R. Burritt)

## **7.New Business**

1. R. Minnick informed the Commission that after extensive investigation he whole-heartedly supports the use of a “Pasture Pro” type product to control weeds in the town parks. (R. Minnick)

2. The Commission discussed community outreach (Facebook, Newspapers, etc.) regarding the anticipated openings on the Conservation Commission. (R. Burritt)

3. There was apparently some confusion regarding the Conservation Commission 2018 meeting schedule at the Senior Center. The Senior Center did not list any Conservation Commission meetings but did show the BF Republican Town Committee Caucus meeting tonight. The Clerk both affixed a 2018 schedule to the event calendar at the Senior Center and mailed a copy to the Seniors as well. (A 2018 schedule was mailed to the Town Clerk in December as in years past)

## **8. Petition of Commissioners**

**R. Minnick made a motion to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding obtaining keys for the Senior Center for the Chairman & Clerk to assist in gaining access and planning the monthly meeting of the Conservation Commission. Seconded by M. Opuszynski. All in favor. Motion passes 5-0.**

Conservation Commissioner Richard Minnick verbally tendered his resignation from the Conservation Commission due to increased time demands with personal and family activities. Rich wished the Commission well in the future and emphasized his eagerness to continue working with the Commission as time would allow. Chairman Ruth Burritt thanked Mr. Minnick for all his guidance and assistance while serving on the Conservation Commission and wished him well in future endeavors.

## **9. Payment of Invoices**

**R. Minnick moved to pay the Clerk’s invoice of \$94.50 for January 2018., seconded by M. Opuszynski. All in favor, motion passes 5-0.**

**10. Adjournment**

The next Conservation Commission regular monthly meeting will be held **Tuesday February 13, 2018 at 6:30 pm** in the Beacon Falls Senior Center, 57 North Main Street.

With no other business **R. Minnick moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm. Seconded by B. Burritt. All in Favor, motion passes 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Peter A. Christensen*

Clerk

CC: Conservation Comm.