

Minutes for the 25 January 2017 Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting

Call meeting to order at 6:40pm. by Chairman Ernie Lamos

Members present: Ernie Lamos, Jennifer Tuthill, Steve Whitman, George Whittaker, Tom Larson, Kim Sharp as alternate for Ron McLean

Excused: Ron McLean, Merry Ruggirello

Absent:

BOS representative present: Bob Piehler

Approve minutes from 30 November mtg: motion to accept minutes as presented was made by JenniferTuthill and 2nd by Tom Larson. Motion passed unanimously.

Financials:

- Ernie reported that an Operating Budget of \$1411 for 2017 was submitted and approved by the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen and will be presented as part of the town's operating budget at the deliberative session.

⑩ The balance in the Conservation Fund account as of December 31, 2016 was \$17,534. There is approximately \$2,000.00 owed to the ACC in outstanding payments that have been billed out for "change of use" penalties, but not yet paid.

Permits: none

Old Business

It was reported that there were 22 calendars sold from the reception held at the Town office Building on Friday November 18. Twenty five more calendars have been purchased and were to be picked up at Costco by Jenny Tuthill on Thursday December 1.

The cost of the calendars was covered from the ACC operating budget. Moneys received from the sale of calendars is returned to the operating budget. The calendars cost \$9.75 each at Costco and are sold at \$10.00.

Status of kiosk at Barrett Park on Bog Road:

1. A gift card and thank you note to Jim Ball. The amount of \$50.00 was agreed upon for the Gift Card to Village Pizza, which Ernie was to obtain. Ron McLean offered to donate handmade wooden kitchen utensils. Ernie reported that the gift card and handmade wooden utensils were given to Jim Ball.

2. Ernie has asked Jennifer Dostie if she could enlarge a map of the bog to be put into the kiosk. There was a discussion about possibly using an aerial photo instead of a map. Tom Larson said he could work with Jennifer to Create this from images available on Google Earth website. Bob Piehler mentioned that drones are a popular method of obtaining aerial photos.

3. George mentioned the idea of posting info from the geological survey which was done a few

years back showing two aquifers. George was to see if he could obtain copies of the survey. George will call Water Resources to inquire as to the possibility of obtaining smaller posters showing the Alexandria Bog area, as his posters are too large to fit into the kiosk.

4. A date has yet to be set for the dedication of Barrett Park. Ernie will call Kate Barrett to find out what will work for her. No date has yet been set for dedication of kiosk because the kiosk is still not finished. The kiosk needs a sign. Ernie will get a price from a craftsman he knows and report back to the commission. It was also discussed that there should be a backing of some sort inside both sides of the kiosk to make it easy to tack up the various posters, notices, etc. Funding should come out of the ACC Operating Budget. Bob Piehler will bring this before the BOS for approval.

Status of NRI:

1. Steve Whitman stated that other than a few small typos which he had noticed the new NRI is all set to be printed. A price of \$15.00 each was given by Venture print. A quantity of 25 was decided upon as an initial order. Material was presented to Venture Printing Monday. Proof copy will be ready for review Friday 1/27. 25 copies ordered at a cost of appx. \$15.00 ea. Plus a one time setup charge of %5.00. Copies will be available 2/3 provided there is no problem with the proof. Add'l copies may be ordered, but there will be a setup charge for each batch of add'l copies, so we should sell the copies for 20.00 ea. For non-members. The initial distribution should be: 1 copy to each member and alternate of ACC (9) 1 copy to each selectman (3); CCs in Bristol, Bridgewater, Hill, Danbury, Grafton, Orange, Groton and Hebron (8); Haynes Library (1); Town Hall (1); Board of selectmen Off (1). It was suggested that the initial run should be 30 which will give us 7 spare, to have some on hand to sell or loan to interested parties.

Note: Subsequent to the meeting, Steve received a final price for printing from Venture Printing of \$15.57 per report. This was up slightly from the original estimate as there were 2 new maps and 7 additional pages in the reprint. Venture printing did agree that the \$15.57 price would be the same for additional copies (plus the \$5.00 set-up for each run) no matter the quantity.

2. Payment to Moosewood; the final draft and all deliverables have been delivered and payment of \$1000 and \$500 is due Moosewood. Steve has requested that Jennifer Dostie request that checks for \$500 and \$1000 be issued to Moosewood Ecological. This represents final payment due. It was decided that we not ask Jeff to make presentation to the town as this would likely incur more charges.

Printing of flyers:

1. Jennifer will handle the printing of 100 ea. of 3 flyers at a cost of \$120.00. The flyers will be: Pitman Town Forrest, Alexandria Barrett Park, and one other.

2. Tom Larson had agreed to print flyers to be used as handouts at the kiosk.

As a result of the offer made by Jennifer Tuthill to design and send printing of flyers to outside source, Tom has withdrawn his offer as it is no longer needed.

New Business:

1. Town Forrest Conservation Easement. Bob Peihler mentioned that he learned of the importance of placing town property under conservation easement when he was at the annual meeting.

This is recommended so that the property cannot be lost to conservation use in the future.

It was agreed that placing the Town Forrest under conservation easement was an

important matter. Jennifer Tuthill will contact the Lakes Region Trust as a first step in fact finding as to the process involved the appx. cost and whatever other information we can obtain to move forward with this concept. She has prior experience in conservation trusts and knows of other individuals and groups who have a favorable opinion of Lakes Region Trust.

2. Trout Unlimited has contacted Steve and is still interested in becoming involved with the restoration of Patten Brook.

Gabe Bolin of Trout unlimited has contacted Steve about TU becoming involved in the Patten Brook restoration. In late 2015/early 2016 TU surveyed the brook with members of the ACC and BOS. They made some recommendations; however, they were not able to commit resources at that time. The Highway Dept. and BOS have been working with Right Angle, and Patten Brook has been part of the discussion. TU now has the resources and Gabe is willing to talk with the BOS – TU can get involved to any extent desired from total project management, including grant writing and work supervision to merely offering suggestions. When we initially looked into this, it appeared that there was a significant expense savings as compared to the fees charged by Right Angle. I told Gabe that I would recommend to the ACC that we write a letter to the BOS advising them that TU has again expressed a desire to become involved and that Gabe has expressed an interest in meeting with them. This is basically an issue between the town and the Highway Dept. and the ACC has no involvement other than “informal monitoring of activities” once work begins. The Secretary should write a letter on behalf of ACC to that affect; Bob P. will also pass this on to the BOS, but we should be on record with a ltr.

All other business that may come before the Commission:

Ernie mentioned that he will ask the BOS if cost of attending the Annual Meeting of NHACC be paid for by the Town from the General Fund, not from the ACC Operating budget.

The Conservation Matters article for the Record Enterprise is supplied by Alexandria twice a year [2017, is March and November]. Steve took on the responsibility when he was Secretary and has been doing it for the past several years. It's not a big deal and involves putting together an article of 500 – 1000 words dealing with conservation issues – your choice. If anyone is interesting in doing the November article, or taking on the responsibility please let Steve know. Or we could rotate the responsibility.

Reminder: According to the By-Laws, Election of Officers and changes to the By-Laws, takes place at the April meeting. Changes to the By-Laws must be presented to the members 28 days prior to the mtg., so any desired changes need to be discussed at the February mtg. to be finalized and distributed at the March mtg. Also, a reminder that Ernie, Jennifer, and Ron need to send ltrs. to BOS requesting an extension of their appointment for an add'l. 3 yrs.

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by George Whittaker, 2nd by Kim Sharp. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Our next meeting will be February 22, 2017

Respectfully Submitted
Tom Larson, Secretary
Alexandria Conservation Commission