

Minutes for the 10 December 2014

Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting*

Meeting to order at 19:04 by Chairman Kate Barrett

Members present: Kate Barrett, Jenny Tuthill, Ernie Lamos, Bob Piehler, Steve Whitman

Excused: George Whittaker

Absent: Don Gagnon; there was no representative from the BOS present for this meeting

Financials: Operating Budget: \$266.00; Conservation Fund \$22,748.21. A 46 mileage reimbursement charge against the Operating Budget is pending. Two properties [407/59 and 414/129] have been taken out of "current use" which will generate some additional revenue for the Conservation Fund.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the 24 September 2014 and from the 22 October 2014 meetings were approved without change and are no longer "drafts".

Permits: None

Old Business

- ✓ Kate has requested that our Conservation Fund account be moved to a different bank with more favorable conditions – *This is currently on hold and the request may be withdrawn pending further investigation.*
- ✓ Recommendations for further ordinances for Bog Rd. are still under review by the BOS – *a Public Hearing was held on 12/2/2014 after the regular BOS meeting; the selectmen took comments from the public and are giving the proposal due consideration. No further action by the ACC is anticipated.*
- ✓ Public Hearing held 12/2/2014 – lively discussion lasted about 20 minutes; BOS need to do some further research based on some issues raised by former road agent Jeff Contara – *see above*
- ✓ It is hoped that the kiosk can be built over the winter and the project completed in the spring - *project is still underway; it is hoped it can be completed in the spring of 2015.*
- ✓ Kate and Jennifer were unable to locate any evidence that Chapman [Pittman] property was officially designated as a Town Forest. Jenny T. will draft a warrant for the BOS's consideration, and upon approval by the ACC, it will be presented to the BOS. – *Selectman George Tuthill has drafted a tentative warrant for inclusion on the March 2015 ballot; this is a BOS matter and the ACC will act only in an advisory capacity should the BOS request our assistance.*

New Business

- 1) The budget meeting was held on 2 October 2014 – *nothing reported since initial meeting.*
- 2) NHACC annual meeting: four ACC members attended – *each attendee gave a brief synopsis on the sessions they attended; general impression was that it was much better than previous years and well worthwhile.*
- 3) Warrant articles due Jan 13th
 - No spraying by the National Grid along the power line easement - *approved warrant article passed at the 9 March 1971 town meeting were discovered, which banned the use of specific sprays as well as chemical spraying of any kind. These warrants will be brought to the attention of the BOS along with a request that they write a letter to the proper authorities demanding that the practice of spraying be discontinued immediately.*

- Town Forest established on Chapman Lot – *see above.*
- 4) Spruce Ridge wind turbines – *project continues to move forward; however, opposition is building within the 5 town affected.*
- 5) Invitation to Grafton CC mtg. in January – *Kate will contact Nancy Watson in Grafton and suggest an informal work session where we can answer questions and offer advice on getting started and direct them to sources of information at the DEP, other organizations, etc.*

All other business that may come before the Commission

Jenny suggested that there are many ways in which we can get the town's people involved and 'excited' about conservation; walking tours, topics of interest at conservation meetings [guest speaker addressing a specific subject; ex: The importance of vernal pools]. Along with this idea, was to establishing better communications with area commissions regarding publicizing upcoming special events, such as guest speakers. Members were asked to give this some thought, and be prepared to discuss a specific idea at our January meeting.

Steve asked for everybody's help in providing input and feedback on the articles he will be writing for the "Conservation Matters" article in the Record Enterprise. Steve has committed to writing two articles a year [other area commissions are doing likewise].

Kate pointed out that Trout Unlimited has grant money available to assist with conservation projects. She will contact the organization for more details, and thought that perhaps a grant could be secured to help with the work being purposed on Patten Brook. Once the information is obtained, it will be presented to the BOS.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:41

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Whitman, Secretary

*Note: these minutes are considered to be a draft until they are approved at a regular ACC meeting.