

**Alexandria Conservation Commission  
Minutes of 22 January 2014 Meeting\***

**Meeting Called to Order at 19:07 by Don Gagnon**

**Members Present:** Kate Barrett, Don Gagnon, Steve Whitman, Janet Towse, George Whittaker, Bob Piehler and Board of Selectman representatives Ken Hall and Donald Sharp

Excused: Sue Hunt

**Approve minutes of the 12/4 /13 Mtg. and 1/13/14 Special Mtg.** After a brief discussion regarding the proposed work to be done on Patten Brook by the Road Agent, the draft minutes of the 12/4/2013 were amended and approved. Reference to H&H Investments as a party to the wetlands application permit was deleted from the draft copy of the minutes; and the minutes of the 1/13/2014 special meeting were approved as amended.

**Review finances:** There was a brief discussion about 2 invoices for membership dues and whether they had been submitted for payment. Both have been submitted for payment in January 2014 and will be charged against our 2014 operating budget.

**Permits:** Construction on behalf of David Bahl Tax Map 404/9. See Old Business below

**Old Business:**

- **Financial Accounting:** Sue Hunt was to follow up with Town Treasurer to establish procedures whereby ACC account statements will include copies of all checks written on those accounts for the statement period. Additionally, Sue was to attempt to get an explanation as to what the \$33.00 and \$758.00 charges against the ACC savings account were. Sue was not able to attend tonight's meeting and didn't provide a status update. The topic will be moved to the February agenda.
- **Copatch Design and Construction:** The minimal impact permit application was presented to the Commission by Copatch Design and Construction. Mr. Copatch reviewed the plans for the construction of a 'driveway' across 71' of wetlands and answered the Commission's questions. He left the original and a copy of the application request and supportive documentation with us for our review and action. We will review the application in detail and advise Mr. Copatch.
- **New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists renewal:** Steve contacted NHANRS and membership has been switched over to the Alexandria Conservation Commission. Invoice for dues payment of \$20.00 has been submitted to Jennifer for payment.

**New Business**

- **ACC intent to intervene in the wetland permitting process regarding the Wild Meadow Wind Farm project:** A Fax was sent to the NHDES 12/23 requesting a 40 day suspension of review in order for the Commission to have time to review the application. Janet took the lead and reviewed the supportive documentation in detail. Her conclusions were sent in a fax to the NHDES on 1/20/2014 [copy of the letter to be made part of the minutes of this meeting]. It was decided that the Commission would provide comment when appropriate, but would not become "an intervener".

- **ACC received a copy of the application submission to the SEC regarding the Wild Meadow Wind Farm project:** The wetlands application and documentation is a part of this package. The entire package is available for review at Steve's. It's an interesting document, but not easy to navigate. A copy is also available at the Municipal Building.
- **Attracting new members to the Commission:** Members were asked to come up with a list of people they felt would make good candidates. This will be addressed further at our next meeting.

#### **Other New Business that may come before the Commission**

Kate Barrett had two issues:

- The Lincoln property located on West Shore Rd. is apparently in violation of the Shore land Protection Act in work being done. While this is not under the jurisdiction of the ACC, Kate will contact the DES to inquire.
- After a significant effort to find ways to control the beaver activity in the bog, and providing the Road Agent with alternative solutions, it was learned that the beavers have been forcibly removed from the area. It is the Commission's view that this is not a permanent solution to the problem and that removing beavers from the bog will have a long term, negative impact on the ecology in the area.

George Whittaker raised one issue:

- There is a petition for a warrant to change the distribution monies derived from the change in land use tax. Although details were not given, this is the only source of funding the Commission has for major projects, and any negative change in the distribution of this money would be detrimental to the Commission.

**Meeting Adjourned: 21:03**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**\*These minutes are considered to be a draft copy until approved at a scheduled Alexandria Conservation Commission meeting.**