

## **Minutes of the 22 July 2015 Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting**

**Call meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Ernie Lamos at 18:34

**Members present:** Kate Barrett, George Whittaker, Jenny Tuthill, Steve Whitman, Bob Piehler, and Ernie Lamos; Alternates, Andrea Tuthill and Dave Chapman [Dave replaced Don Gagnon as a voting member at the mtg.]. Don Sharp was present as the representative from the BOS.

**Excuse:** None

**Absent:** Don Gagnon

**Financials:** Operating: The 2015 operating budget balance as of 30 June 2015 was \$344.00. An additional \$580.00 is available to us, although not reflected in the budget due to a typographical error in the town budget. We have been assured these funds will be available to us when/if needed. The Conservation Fund had a balance of \$23,261.58 as of 30 June 2015 with an additional \$1,000 balance due from 2 properties recently removed from "current use".

**Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from 27 May; a motion to accept the minutes without change was made by George Whittaker and seconded by Don Sharp – motion carried unanimously. Minutes from 24 June; a motion to accept the minutes without change was made by Kate Barrett and seconded by Jenny Tuthill – motion carried unanimously. Minutes from 3 July; some minor wording changes were made and a motion was made to accept the minutes as amended by Jenny Tuthill and seconded by George Whittaker – motion carried unanimously. Approved copies will be sent to the Administrative assistant and replace all "draft copies".

**Permits:** None.

### **Old Business**

- The formal report detailing the walk-through visit by Dave Falkenham and Matt Tarr on 6/22/15 has not yet been received. The forester, Dave Falkenham, is in the process of relocating and tying-up loose ends before leaving. Jenny will contact Matt Tarr as to the status of the report before August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The title search on the town forest property was delayed until early to mid July due to a seasonal workload increase. Work has begun and Ernie will follow up as to the status before our next meeting.
- Further discussion and any action on work needing to be done to stabilize the banking along the brook caused by previous work done on Wadhams Rd. has been tabled until mid-August.
- David Chapman and Andrea Tuthill partitioned the Board of Selectmen for appointments to the Conservation Commission as Alternates, and have been appointed. Welcome to the Commission. It was also brought to the attention of the Commission by Steve that "interested residents", in addition to Commission members, are on the distribution list to receive material and other information about conservation issues.
- Trout Unlimited reviewed a restoration project for the Patten Brook several months ago and our understanding was that they were to get back to the BOS with their findings and advise the town of their willingness to participate. Nothing has been received to date, and Kate will follow-up.
- The Road Agent, Jeff Cantara has installed a device similar in concept to that suggested by Skip Lisle [aka "the beaver deceiver"]. Jeff's device seems to be working effectively. Other than monitoring, no further activity is planned at this time.
- Ernie will contact Jeff Littleton, Moosewood Ecological next month to learn if he has interest and availability for completing the NRI in the Fowler and Smith Rivers watershed; and if so, what the approximate cost would be.

- Jenny provided a list of possible activities the Commission could sponsor to involve the town residents more in the conservation effort. The list provides some excellent suggestions and will be considered in the fall.

### **New Business**

- The 2015 Wildlife Action Plan has been revised to reflect the current and anticipated future conditions of wildlife and habitats in New Hampshire and to outline actions that organizations and individuals across New Hampshire can take to conserve them over the next 10 years. A draft copy of the plan can be viewed at: [http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/wap.html?utm\\_source=Draft+Wildlife+Action+Plan+2015+available+for+review&utm\\_campaign=WAP+2015+3rd+Ann&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/wap.html?utm_source=Draft+Wildlife+Action+Plan+2015+available+for+review&utm_campaign=WAP+2015+3rd+Ann&utm_medium=email). Members are aware of this information and many have read all or part of the content.
- “ACC minutes should be available for public review within 5 business days of the meeting.” The general feeling was that this was not realistic for a variety of reasons. Considerable discussion ensued. We strive to provide as detailed minutes as possible to enable residents to understand the issues and actions being taken. We also allow each of our Commission members to review the minutes before publishing to ensure accuracy and clarity. In short we try to convey exactly what goes on at our meetings in the same level of detail attendees get. It was agreed that we will make every effort to have a draft copy of our minutes available upon request within the 5 business days of our meeting; however, only after the minutes are approved at a formal meeting, and no longer a draft copy, will they be posted on the town website.

### **Town Forest Update**

- Work on developing the town forest continues. The title search should be completed within 30 days. Assuming the town gets “clear title”, the next step will be to survey the property. Preliminary estimates are around \$4,000, but actual bids from three surveyors are required. At this point, we can only move forward conceptually.

### **Other Business**

- The NHACC will hold its annual conference 7 Nov 2015 at the Pembroke Academy. For more information visit: <http://www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting45/>.
- The Governor’s office has released a flyer stating the potential harmful impact Northeast Energy’s purposed direct pipeline project could have on the environment.
- Emerald Ash Borer has been detected in Belknap County and the quarantine on ash products extended. Four counties encompassing 99 cities and towns are now under quarantine to help contain this invasive bug. Information about the Emerald Ash Borer was published in the July 2014 Alexandria Conservation Commission’s newsletter [available on the town’s website]. Other information can be obtained at: [www.nhbugs.org](http://www.nhbugs.org) , (800) 444-8978, or (603) 464-3016. Commission members were asked to help spread the word for people to be on the lookout for signs of the bug’s presence.

There being no further business brought before the Commission, Don Sharp made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Jenny Tuthill – the motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 20:01. Our next scheduled meeting is August 26th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Whitman, Secretary  
Alexandria Conservation Commission

