

## Minutes for the 23 September 2015 Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting

**Call meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Ernie Lamos at 18:33

**Members present:** Jenny Tuthill, Steve Whitman, Ernie Lamos, Andrea Tuthill and Dave Chapman. Bob Piehler was present as a representative from the BOS.

**Absent:** George Whittaker, Alternate Don Gagnon

Note: Bob Piehler has been appointed as a Selectman for the town and has resigned from the Commission.

**Financials:** Operating: The 2015 operating budget balance as of 31 July 2015 was \$344.91; expenditures as of 20 August 2015 were \$380.99, however, a bank statement as of 31 August 2015 was not available. 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 \$23,316.31 as of 31 August 2015 with an additional \$1,000 balance due from 2 properties recently removed from "current use".

**Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from 26 August; a motion to accept the minutes without change was made by Jenny and 2nd Andrea – motion carried unanimously. Approved copies will be sent to the Administrative assistant and replace all "draft copies".

**Permits:** Cole Hill Rd.; a minimal impact permit application was received for the ACC's consideration. Both the 'standard' and 'expedite' boxes have been checked, so it is not clear as to the ACC's role. Several members of the Commission have reviewed the project site and found no issues from a conservation standpoint and the permit application was signed. Jeff Cantara, Road Agent, informed us that the permit for the work had already been received from DEP. A permit for the Grove Rd. culvert project has also been received [the ACC did not review this application as it was not an "expedite" request]; however, this project has been deferred in favor of the Cole Hill Rd. project according to Jeff Cantara.

### Old Business

- The formal report detailing the walk-through visit to the town forest property by Dave Falkenham and Matt Tarr on 6/22/15 - Jenny has obtained a copy of the letter which she read at the meeting. The letter contained extensive details as to the makeup of the property as well as suggestions for enhancements; it will be used in helping the ACC develop our plans for the forest.
- 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. have not yet begun. This area will continue to be monitored by the ACC; however, it is not an immediate concern and will be dropped as an agenda item.
- Trout Unlimited reviewed a restoration project for the Patten Brook several months ago. Steve sent email to each selectman updating them on status. Response back was that the town wished to keep all options open at the present time. The BOS are currently working with Right Angle on a grant application for work to be done on the bridge on Bog Rd. further downstream. The ACC will contact Colin again the end of October, and report at the November meeting.
- It was felt that the ACC should take an active role in helping to inform and educate our residents about the serious threat the Emerald Ash Borer poses. An open informational meeting with the Extension Service has been scheduled at the Old Town Hall on Wednesday, October 14th at 6:00pm. The event will be advertised in area newspapers and on our facebook page. A motion to purchase a 2 ½' x 8' banner that could be used at various ACC events was made by Jenny and 2nd by Dave – the motion passed unanimously. Jenny will coordinate the activities.
- The NHACC will hold its annual conference 7 Nov 2015 at the Pembroke Academy. For more information visit: <http://www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting45/>. Anyone interested in attending should

let Ernie know - ACC member's travel expenses will be reimbursed. Ernie will coordinate the registration and the town will be billed directly.

- Jenny and Ernie have put together a brochure for our new town forest and develop a historical, informational pamphlet about Mr. Pittman. Jenny distributed each for our review/comments.
- The facebook page has been developed by Andrea and is up and functioning; an announcement will be carried in the ACC October newsletter article.

### **New Business**

- A motion was made by Ernie and 2nd by Jenny to name the town owned, reclaimed area in the bog in recognition of Kate Barrett's long service to the town as a member of the Conservation Commission – the motion passed unanimously. Ernie will coordinate.
- Vacancies on Commission; we have 1 vacancy on the commission for a member, and 1 vacancy for an alternate.

### **Town Forest Update**

The title search research has been completed and a formal report received confirming that the town does have clear title to the property.

- Colin Brown has been contracted to do the survey and has been given a deposit. He will advise us when he can start and has invited interested ACC members to join him if they'd like.
- The recommendations contained in the letter from Dave Falkenham and Matt Tarr detailing their observation on their walk of the property will serve as the basis for developing our plans for the town forest. The ACC will work together as stewards of the property and any actions taken will be with the consensus of the commission. The BOS has indicated that they wished to be kept informed, but are leaving the development and day-to-day management of the town forest to the Conservation Commission.

### **Other Business**

It was brought up that the "pocket park" reclaimed area off of Bog Rd. is growing up and needs attention. There was discussion about what should be done with the area; maintain it as a "pocket park" area where people can walk in and observe the bog wetlands and wildlife or let it grow in naturally without maintaining it. A motion was made by Jenny and 2nd by Ernie that the immediate area be mowed this fall. Steve expressed concern about the knotweed in the area and the potential for it spreading if mowed. The motion was passed unanimously, with the proviso that knotweed would not be cut and its elimination would be addressed in the spring.

Jeff Cantara, Road Agent join us late in the meeting to discuss permits and NPRs [no permits required], the obligation of the highway department to follow mandated procedures set forth by the state, the Cole Hill and Grove Rd. projects, and his desire to work with the ACC on areas of mutual concern. Jeff's comments were enlightening, gave us a better understanding of some of the issues he's up against, and paved the way for a closer working relationship.

There being no further business brought before the Commission, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ernie and 2nd by Bob – motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 20:27. Our next scheduled meeting is October 28th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted

Steve Whitman, Secretary  
Alexandria Conservation Commission

