

Minutes for the 24 June 2015 Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting*

Call meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order by Ernie Lamos at 18:31

Members present: Kate Barrett, George Whittaker, Jenny Tuthill and Ernie Lamos. Don Sharp was present as the representative from the BOS.

Excused: Steve Whitman [participated via conference call], Bob Piehler

Absent: Don Gagnon

Financials: Operating: The 2015 operating budget balance as of 27 May 2015 was \$344.99. 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 \$23,255.78 as of 27 May 2015, with an additional \$1,000 balance due from 2 properties recently removed from "current use".

Minutes 27 May meeting: They were not available at this time.

Permits: None.

Old Business

- ✓ Walk-through visit by Dave Falkenham and Matt Tarr was re-scheduled for 6/22/15. Ernie Lamos was the only Commission member available to participate. The majority of the property was walked and both Dave and Matt remarked about the "quality" of the land; few boulders and stones and no ledge apparent; additionally there was evidence of numerous species of wildlife and diversified wildlife habitat – ideal for hiking and observing nature. A few recommendations including enlisting the services of an independent forester to help plan a timber harvesting strategy were made; a full, more detailed report will follow.
- ✓ Before embarking on other than preliminary evaluation efforts for the town forest property, the town felt it wise to have a "Title Search" completed to ensure no encumbrances on the property existed. The title search is being conducted by a title company contracted by the town has not yet been completed. Research done by the Alexandria Conservation Commission has located what appear to be the established boundaries for the property; however, there is no record of a formal survey being completed. Jenny Tuthill made a motion to have the ACC write a letter to the BOS requesting that they follow up as to the status of the title search; George Whittaker seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously – Steve Whitman will draft a letter and send it to members for review.
- ✓ Some restoration work was done to the brook adjacent to Wadhams Rd. which has subsequently resulted in additional work needing to be done to stabilize the banking along the brook. A concerned resident asked the Conservation Commission to review the situation and make recommendation as to how the stabilization should be done. As wetlands are involved, Commission involvement is appropriate. As the issue is one primarily between the BOS and the Highway Dept. [with the ACC only interest being the protection of the wetlands and the brook], the decision was made for the ACC to extend an invitation to the BOS to join them in a joint visit to the area to evaluate the situation and jointly decide the best course of action. A letter will be sent electronically to the Administrative Assistant for distribution to the individual BOS members suggesting a meeting at 7:30am on Friday, July 3rd. As this may result in a quorum for both the ACC and BOS, Steve Whitman will draft a Meeting Notice for posting at the transfer station and town municipal building.
- ✓ Recruiting new members to serve. We are always looking for new members to serve on the Conservation Commission. At the June meeting, David Chapman and Andrea Tuthill were in attendance as guests interested in joining the commission as Alternates. After seeing how the

commission operates and learning a little about our history and mission, if they would like an appointment, they will advise the BOS of their interest.

- ✓ Several months ago, Trout Unlimited reviewed a restoration project for the Patten Brook from an area roughly from the Washburn Rd. bridge downstream to the Bog Rd. bridge. Our understanding was that they were to get back to the BOS with their findings and advise the town of their willingness to participate. So far they have not responded. This is basically an issue between the town and Trout Unlimited with the Conservation Commission merely bringing the two parties together.

New Business

- ✓ Skip Lisle [aka “the beaver deceiver”] has sent the Commission all the information about his services and how he controls beavers. Jenny Tuthill made a motion that a meeting be held with Jeff Cantara, Skip Lisle, members of the ACC, and representative(s) from the BOS; Kate seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Kate will contact Skip to get a date when he is available. Once we have Skip’s availability, Ernie will contact Jeff to explain the intent of the meeting and see if the date is convenient for Jeff to meet. If the date agreeable to Jeff, invitations will be sent to the BOS and the ACC members advised of the date and time.
- ✓ Haynes Library has scheduled several free events over the summer that are open to the public. Specific events and times may be obtained on the town website or visit the library during their normal business hours.

There being no further business brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 20:03. Our next scheduled meeting is July 22nd at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Whitman, Secretary

Alexandria Conservation Commission

*Minutes are considered a draft copy until accepted at a regularly scheduled meeting.