

**Alexandria Conservation Commission
Minutes of the 26 February 2014 Meeting***

Meeting Called to Order at 19:07 by Don Gagnon

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

Minutes of the 1/22/14 Mtg. were approved without change

Review finances: The proposed operating budget for 2014 is \$930.00. The Fund [savings account] balance as of 31 January 2014 balance is \$7,765.43. A request for a check in the amount of \$10,635.00 for deposit in the Conservation Account was signed by the selectmen at their 11 Feb. mtg and should reflect in our Feb. statement. This represents the Commission's share of fees for changes in land use on 3 properties [404-9, 411-27 and 411-26].

Permits: None

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 reported that she has not been able to contact the town Treasurer as yet, but will continue to pursue this and report next month.
- **Copatch Design and Construction:** A revised plan was completed by Copatch Design & Construction and presented to the Commission at our 22 Jan. mtg. for our review and comment. The commission completed its review of the application and signed off on it. However, to date Mr. Copatch has not provided the ACC with a signed copy of the application, so we are unsure if he has submitted it to the DES. There is speculation that Mr. Copatch will no longer be involved with the project. Don Gagnon will keep an eye on the property to be sure any work done [by anybody] is in compliance with the specifications detailed on the application.
- **The Lincoln property located on West Shore Rd.** There appears to be a question about the work being done, and while this project is not under the jurisdiction of the ACC, Kate will contact the Shoreland authorities at NHDES. Because of the amount of snow on the ground, it is impossible to determine specifically what has been done and Kate has elected to delay contacting DES until conditions permit a detailed review of the area by the DES. Kate will contact NHDES when the time is appropriate.
- **Attracting new members to the Commission.** How to recruit people to fill the "alternate" positions and groom them to assume leadership positions on the Commission. In addition to the 7 members on the Commission, the By-Laws provide for 2 alternate positions. The names of potential candidates were put forward and discussed. Kate and Janet will informally contact these individuals to determine if there is any interest in joining the ACC. We would like very much to fill these 2 alternate positions as soon as possible.

New Business

- Approach/Strategy for confronting the warrant capping the amount of funds from the change in land use tax fees allocated to the ACC. It was agreed that a "letter to the Editor" in both the *Citizen* and the *Record Enterprise* explaining the concept of Trust Funds, why the ACC needs

these funds and the conditions which must be met in order to spend these funds. Janet will draft the letter with input from all the members, and get it to the respective papers in time for inclusion prior to the election. In addition, Kate will be at the polls on Election Day passing out reminders to vote "NO" on article #15.

Other New Business that may come before the Commission

- The Saving Special Places workshop will be held Saturday 5 April from 8:00 am – 3:45 pm at the Laconia Middle School. Registration is \$60 prior to 3/28 and \$75 after that. Members who are interested in attending should register soon as this workshop is popular and fills quickly. Registration fees for ACC members will be paid for by the ACC. More information can be obtained at <http://savingspecialplaces.org/>
- Town land for use by the Highway Dept. to hold/dump waste material was discussed. Since the reclamation of the 20 acre site on Bog Rd., the town has no place to properly store waste material. This is of concern to the ACC because current practices are endangering water and wetland resources. The Commission is considering formally requesting that the Board of Selectmen work with the Road Agent to develop a strategic plan to handle highway waste material. More discussion is needed on this topic.
- The Pittman property is a 55 acre parcel of land owned by the town and abuts or is in close proximity to land which is currently under conservation easements. There was discussion as to whether the Pittman property has been designated as a Town Forest; Kate will investigate. The opinion of the Commission is that this land should be protected by the town and possibly used as a "model forest management" area open to the public for recreational activity. More discussion is needed on this once we determine if it is currently a "Town Forest".

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 20:12

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Whitman, Secretary

*These minutes are to be considered a draft copy until approved by the ACC at a regularly scheduled meeting