

Minutes for the 25 March 2015 Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting

Call meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order by Steve Whitman at 19:01

Members present: Steve Whitman, George Whittaker, Bob Piehler, Jenny Tuthill and Ernie Lamos

Excused: Kate Barrett

Absent: Don Gagnon; There was no representative from the BOS present for this meeting

Financials: Operating: The 2015 operating budget as reflected in the town budget and passed is for \$630. This amount is **incorrect**, and should be \$1210. We have been assured the full \$1210 will be available to us. The Conservation Fund had a balance of \$22,753.82 as of 2/28/2015, with an additional \$2,500 due from 2 properties being removed from "current use" [\$500 of which has been received, but not credited to our account as of 2/28/2015 – deposit made 3/11].

Minutes 2/25/2015: Minutes from 2/25/2015 Meeting were approved without change.

Permits: None. A reminder that only "expedited" permits require ACC approval; however, we are still free to voice our opinion on permit requests, and we need to receive our informational copies in a timely manner.

Old Business

- ✓ Recommendations from the ACC to the BOS for the further ordinances for Bog Rd. are still under review by the BOS, as well as some additional considerations and various options available. The BOS recognizes our concerns, and are moving to resolve them.
- ✓ The kiosk project for the bog is on hold. There is apparently no interest from the Boy Scouts to get involved, and alternate resources have not as yet been identified.
- ✓ Jenny submitted letter on behalf of ACC to the BOS encouraging them to write letter to National grid opposition to spraying as stated in 1971 Warrant. Minutes from 17 Mar BOS mtg. indicate that a letter to National Grid concerning their vegetation control strategy was signed; however, the ACC has not seen a copy of the letter, and Jenny will follow up with BOS.
 - There was recollection that a 4th warrant article was introduced in the early 1980's banning all spraying of any type under the power lines; George Whittaker is researching old town reports, but has not yet located the warrant article or completed his review.
- ✓ As the result of the ACC advising the BOS that Trout Unlimited may be an alternative resource for the restoration project on Patten Brook, we understand the BOS have written a letter to Trout Unlimited expressing their interest in having TU meet with them regarding the restoration. The ACC did not receive a copy of the letter, and have not been advised of TU's response (if any). The ACC will follow up with the BOS to get a copy of their letter and see if they need any additional information from us. Trout Unlimited's normal practice is to work in concert with both local officials and the town's conservation commission in matters of this type.
- ✓ An advertisement for anyone interested in joining the ACC as an Alternate appeared in the March newsletter article. As the result, 2 individuals have contacted Jenny; David Chapman and Andrea Tuthill. Jenny will advise them that they may wish to attend a couple of meeting as guests, and if still interested, to submit a letter to the BOS expressing their interest in being appointed as an Alternate; Kate will be copied on the letters. There was a brief discussion as to the role of an "Alternate" and whether they needed to attend all meetings; Steve stated that in his opinion, Alternates should attend all meetings as you never knew when a regular member would be absent, plus it is important for Alternates to keep abreast of what's going on and learn how the commission functions – other members agreed.
- ✓ Steve suggested that an "Interested People" list be created to include people who expressed an interest in conservation matters and include them on conservation emails [after initially contacting them to determine if they are interested]. People agreed this was a good idea, and Steve, as Secretary, will begin a list.

- ✓ Jenny will put together a 'public educational events' list for consideration and distribute it via email to our members for comment. It was pointed out that several area commissions do this, and Alexandria certainly is not lacking for interesting opportunities.

New Business

1. Management of the "Town Forest". It was stressed that the ACC will be managing the Town Forest on behalf of the BOS and we take our direction from them. Members agreed that the initial step should be a joint work session with the BOS/ACC to establish the framework within which we'll be working, set some ground rules, and set some general long range objectives for the forest. Jenny will draft a letter to the BOS requesting a joint work session, and sent it to all members for review and comment before sending.
2. They're several events and workshops coming up over the next month or so:

NHANRS will hold a workshop on Wildlife Corridors in NH at the Lebanon City Hall on Fri., 27 Mar from 9am to 3pm. For information call (603) 224-0401

Saving Special Places is holding its annual Land Conservation conference on Sat., 11 Apr in Weare; more information is available at savingspecialplaces.org.

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's biggest community event of the year, Discover WILD New Hampshire Day, is set for Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of the Fish and Game Department at 11 Hazen Drive in Concord, N.H.

The NH Wildlife Action Plan is being updated and public input sessions have been scheduled: April 23, 4:00 - 6:30pm, Plymouth Regional High School; April 28, 6:00 - 8:30pm, Exeter High School; May 5, 1:00 - 3:30pm, Keene Parks & Recreation Center; May 6, 2:00 - 4:30pm, NH Fish and Game, Concord; and May 12, 2:00 - 4:30pm, AMC Highland Center, Crawford Notch. **Pre-registration for these sessions is required. Visit the NH Fish and Game [Wildlife Action Plan 2015 web page](#) for details.**

If interested, please check informational source indicated early as some event have registration fees with early registration discounts, and some are free, but have limited space available. Anyone interested in attending any of these should let Kate know.

3. **Reminder** that ACC elections are next month; talk to either Kate or Steve if you're interested.

All other business that may come before the Commission

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:07

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Whitman, Secretary
Alexandria Conservation Commission