

Agenda for the 27 April 2016 Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting

Call meeting to Order: Meeting called to order at 18:40 by Chairman Ernie Lamos

Members present: Ernie Lamos, George Whittaker, Ron MacLean, Merry Ruggirello, Jennifer Tuthill, Tom Larson, and Steve Whitman. There was no representative from the BOS present at this meeting.

Guests: Mike Putman and Sharolyn Putman

Minutes Approved: Minutes from 3/2 mtg. were approved unanimously w/o change at the 3/30 mtg.; however, their approval was inadvertently omitted from the minutes of that meeting. A motion to accept the 3/30 minutes w/o change was made by George and 2nd by Jenny; motion was approved unanimously.

Financials: Operating budget; balance as of 27 April 2016 was \$283.01

Conservation Fund; exact balance was not available, but a deposit of \$1,125.00 was made in April for lot 409/21-3. There is currently an outstanding payment balance of \$1,950.00 due.

Permits: None requiring action

Old Business

- Letters of resignation from Andrea and Dave were received and accepted by the BOS. Merry Ruggirello will send a letter to the Selectmen indicating that the ACC recommends that Merry Ruggirello be moved from Alternate to replace Andrea; and that Ron Maclean's application for appointment to the Commission be considered as a replacement for Dave Chapman.
- The Town has received and signed a contract with Moosewood Ecological for to complete the work, which will begin in April 2016 and be completed by yearend 2016. Jeff will make 1st visit 4/29; with 2 subsequent visits in May and 2 in June; a 6th visit may be necessary depending on findings. Jeff's visitation schedule not yet finalized.
- Sign amended ACC Bylaw. Signed
- Election of officers for 2016 -2017. Ernie Lamos will continue as Chairman; Jennifer Tuthill will continue as Vice- Chairman; Merry Ruggirello will replace Steve Whitman as Secretary. All were voted in unanimously.
- Goal priorities were discussed, with the decision to focus on Barrett Park and Town Forest. Committed for the rest of 2016:
 - a. Barrett Park: Dave Gage has been requested to complete the construction of the kiosk as soon as possible. Moriah Sanborn has completed the 1st draft of the informational piece about the bog; Jenny is working with her to develop additional unique information specific to the Alexandria Bog. The "Grand Opening" will be delayed until everything is in place. Signs indicating the turtle nesting area and requesting that people "please" not disturb the area will be placed now and remain during the nesting season. A picnic table donate by George will be moved into the area and secured.
 - b. Town Forest: May 15th will be the first scheduled activity in the town forest; a walk through the area. Notification and directions to the forest will be placed in area publications and on our facebook page. Work to clear the main trail and hang the sign made by Ron will be done before the 'walk'. This is the first of several activities planned for the town forest this year.

- Existing Conservation lands and other available trails in Alexandria will be mapped. Discussion on this was deferred to a later meeting.
- Photo Contest for 2017 calendar will take place, with final photo selection for November. Some discussion regarding financing the event took place; however, further discussion was deferred to a later meeting.

New Business

The ACC will have a booth at the church fair this year. Details were not discussed other than this may present an opportunity to raise money to support the calendar event. More discussion is needed.

Town Forest Update

See above comments (committed for 2016)

Other Business

Mike and Sharolyn Putman ask for the Commission's assistance in identifying possible vernal pools on their property and to express their opinion as to whether activity on abutting property was adversely affecting them. The Commission stated that while they could express their opinion as to whether the area(s) in question met the criteria for "vernal pools", any evaluation as to the impact any activity in the area was having was a determination the DES would have to make; and they (the DES) would be the one to oversee any corrective action needed. The Commission further stated that they currently did not have anyone certified on the Commission to make a "professional" evaluation, and that anything they determined would only be only an opinion. It was decided that members of the Commission would visit the property with Mr. Putman, and provide him with a letter expressing their opinion as to whether the area(s) in question were "vernal pools". However, they would not comment on the impact area activity was having as this is a DES issue and one which the Commission was not qualified to evaluate.

Adjourn

There being no further business brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 19:48. Our next scheduled meeting will be 25 May 2016.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Whitman, Secretary
Alexandria Conservation Commission