

Minutes for the 27 January 2016 Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting

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

Members present: Tom Larson, Jenny Tuthill, Steve Whitman, Ernie Lamos, George Whittaker, Andrea Tuthill, Dave Chapman, and Merry Ruggirello. Bob Piehler was present as a representative from the BOS

Guests: Ron Maclean (potential Alternate); Moriah Sanborn (potential Junior Member)

Financials: Operating: The 2016 operating budget of \$1,700 has been proposed. The December 31, 2015 balance for the 2015 Operating Budget was not available. The Conservation Fund had a balance of \$23,317; there is still an outstanding change of use penalty payment of \$1,000 due from 2 properties removed from "current use" in 2015.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from 2 December 2015; a motion to accept the minutes without change was made by Jenny and 2nd by Tom - motion carried unanimously. Meeting Minutes from the Special Meeting of 13 January 2016; a motion to accept the minutes without change was made by Jenny and 2nd by George - motion carried unanimously. Approved copies of both minutes will be sent to the Administrative Assistant and replace all "draft copies".

Permits: Informational copy of a permit for bridge work by the state on Fowler River Rd. No ACC action required, as this was not an "expedited" permit application.

Old Business

- Ernie was to contact Colin Lawson at Trout Unlimited TU's ability to provide support for the Patten Brook restoration project. This issue has been resolved by the selectmen and is no longer considered a Commission issue.
- Jenny made the suggestion that the ACC sponsor a photo contest with the winning pictures used to create an ACC calendar. 63 photos were received from 22 individuals. A reception to display the photos and award prizes will be held at 7:00pm at the municipal bldg. A motion was made by Jenny and 2nd Steve to award gift certificated for Cardigan Country Store; \$25 1st, \$15 2nd, and \$10 3rd - motion carried unanimously. One Calendar will be available to residents free of charge (donations are appreciated); and additional calendars are available for \$10 ea. Cost for the calendars to date is approximately \$250. Feedback has been very positive, and it was agreed to sponsor a similar contest this fall; theme to be determined.
- The Commission is concerned that the apparent budget amount for 2015 of only \$630 will have a negative impact on our ability to gain approval for the requested \$1,700 for 2016, and plans to meet with the BOS and Budget Committee to be sure they understand that the \$630 is not the correct 2015 budgeted amount, and to be sure that the correct amount appears on any documents associated with development and presentation of the Town and/or The Conservation Commission 2016 budget, including the 2016 budgeted amount in the event of a "default budget". The Commission Chairman and Vice Chairman have discussed this with the BOS and the issue has been resolved.
- 2016 - Field Training Series Workshop Planning - NHACC has begun planning its annual Field Training Series workshops. Steve advised Nik that we had several areas in town which may be suitable for field workshops and requested more information to determine exactly what's involved from an ACC and property owner's prospective. Nik has left the NHACC, and nothing further has been heard from NHACC. Steve will follow up with the NHACC.
- The Alexandria Recreational Advisory Council has expanded its program to include workshops once a week where individuals are invited to make presentations to the group of children and their parents. Topics include helpful information about Budgeting, Cooking, Canning & Freezing, etc.; basically anything that provides a chance to get together and interact with children, talk, and exchange ideas. A motion made by Jenny 2nd by Tom to contact Lorraine Jones, Director, ARAC for more details as to how

the ACC might get involved. Motion carried unanimously; Steve will contact Lorraine. Bob indicated that the Fish & Game had a number of kits designed for schools to get kids involved with the outdoors. He will see what is available, and he and Steve will contact Lorraine .

- At the September 23rd meeting it was agreed 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. Dave Gagne has agreed to design and build the kiosk on the site and others will donate the materials. The kiosk will be placed this spring. It was decided that an announcement should be made to the public that the park has been named Barrett Park in honor of Kate Barrett. Jenny will draft a news release and Tom will make signs for placement in key locations announcing the event.
- A Junior Commission Membership category has been established. The position should be limited to no more than two (2) individuals between the ages of 12 and 18 and have a term of 1 year. Further, the individual(s) shall be recommended by at least one (1) ACC member and appointed by the Board of Selectmen. This shall be a non-voting position. The position requires the approval of the BOS and the term shall be for a period of one (1) year subject to annual renewal. This will require a change in our Bylaws. There was some discussion concerning the age limitations. It was pointed out that the ages were set by the Commission and we were free to change them; however, they were set with the idea that we were looking to attract Jr. High School and High School students; 18 yr olds, while perhaps still in High School, are considered adults and should be considered as Commission member candidates.
- Bog Rd. maintenance committee. Create a group of individuals, under the direction of an ACC member to monitor and remove trash from Bog Rd. Considerable discussion resulting in numerous considerations surfacing. A sign-up sheet for those interested in helping to maintain the roadside will be available at the deliberative session and at the election.

New Business

1. Jeff Littleton from Moosewood Ecological has provided us with a proposal to complete the Alexandria NRI to include the Fowler River and the Smith River watersheds. Steve presented the proposal to the group. The Commission agreed that Moosewood Ecological should be contracted to complete the NRI. Steve made a motion, 2nd by Ernie, that Moosewood Ecological be selected to complete the Fowler & Smith River NRI – motion carried unanimously. However, it was brought up that it might be more cost effective from a printing perspective to create an addendum to the current NRI rather than merging the new information into the current NRI. Steve will investigate printing charges under both scenarios and also check with Jeff Littleton as to how this might affect his estimate. George and Steve will identify properties and obtain permission to enter the land for field assessment work.
2. Discussion of the 1/13 workshop on Objective Setting and prioritization of these objectives was deferred until 24 February mtg.

Town Forest Update

Brochures describing the property and the life of Mr. Pitman have been updated and corrected as needed. Credits for photography in the brochures has also been acknowledged.

Other Business

Bob suggested that in as much as the town sells fishing and hunting licenses, they should also distribute the safety and informational material that goes with them. He will check with Fish & Game to see what would be appropriate and in what quantities.

There being no further business brought before the commission, a motion was made by Jenny, 2nd by Steve to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 19:47. Our next scheduled meeting is February 24th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Whitman, Secretary