

Minutes for the 28 October 2015 Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting

Call meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order by Ernie Lamos at 18:38

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

Guest: Tom Lawson

Financials: Operating: The 2015 operating budget balance as of 30 September 2015 was not available. Registration expenses for the 2015 NHACC annual meeting are anticipated to be \$220.00, which will be reflected in the November statement. An additional \$580.00 is available to us, although not reflected in the budget due to a typographical error in the town budget. We anticipate that these funds will be needed to cover expenses for the NHACC annual meeting and some additional expenses incurred before the end of the year, and have been assured these funds will be available to us when/if needed. The Conservation Fund had a balance of \$23,317.23 as of 30 September 2015 with an additional \$1,000 balance due from 2 properties recently removed from "current use".

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from 23 September; a motion to accept the minutes without change was made by George and 2nd Bob – motion carried unanimously. Approved copies will be sent to the Administrative Assistant and replace all "draft copies".

Permits: Expedited Minimal Impact Wetlands application was received from B. A. Barnard Ent., Inc. of behalf of John A. Farrer Trust for work to be done at 922 West Shore Rd., Alexandria, NH. The application was reviewed by members of the commission and the site visited. The application was approved without recommendations or comments and delivered to the Town Clerk on 10/6/2015.

Old Business

- The ACC will contact Colin Lawson at Trout Unlimited again the end of October, and report at the November meeting as to the status of TU's ability to provide support for the Patten Brook restoration project.
- It was felt that the ACC should take an active role in helping to inform and educate our residents about the serious threat the Emerald Ash Borer poses. An open informational event with the Extension Service was held Wednesday, October 14th. Donna Rhodes of the *Newfound Landing* newspaper attended the event and reported on it in the 22 October 2015 edition of the *Newfound Landing*. The article can be viewed on the paper's website; www.newfoundlanding.com.
- The NHACC will hold its annual conference 7 Nov 2015 at the Pembroke Academy. Four members of the ACC will attend.
- Jenny and Ernie have put together a brochure for our new town forest and developed a historical, informational pamphlet about Mr. Pitman. The pamphlet and brochure have been updated, reprinted, and distributed. A supply of each is also available on the table outside of the Selectmen's office in the municipal building.
- 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. Andrew Richter has agreed to build the kiosk on the site and others will donate the materials. The specific design, location, etc. will be worked out by Ernie and Jenny.
- Vacancies on Commission; we have 1 vacancy on the commission for a member, and 2 vacancy for an alternate. Don Gagnon has chosen not to continue as a member of the Commission.
- In September, it was brought up that the "pocket park" reclaimed area off of Bog Rd. is growing up and needs attention. The area has been mowed and it was decided that in the spring the Commission will assume responsibility for maintaining the area on a regular basis.

New Business

- ACC Holiday Meeting Schedule for 2015. A motion was made by Steve and 2nd by Andrea to move the November 25th meeting to 2 December and cancel the December 23rd meeting, with the proviso that in the event of urgent business requiring the attention of the Commission prior to the January 27th meeting, a special meeting will be called to address that business – motion carried unanimously.
- Information Only:
 - Conservation Matters article for the *Record Enterprise*. The Alexandria Conservation Commission participates with a group of area conservation commissions and other conservation minded organizations in writing a monthly article.
 - The Holderness Conservation Commission is sponsoring a wetlands workshop on Sunday the 8th of November from noon until 4 pm and would like to invite any of you to that session. It will start at the Holderness Town Hall and then spend some time on site at their wetland at the corner of Smith and Sargent Roads.

Town Forest Update

The title search research has been completed and a formal report received confirming that the town does have clear title to the property. Colin Brown has completed the survey, and identified the boundaries. Maps have been drawn, however, it is felt that the markings need to be enhanced for easier identification; Jenny will coordinate this effort. Plans for the development of the forest are still being formulated, but are expected to move forward quickly now that the survey work has been completed.

Other Business

George brought up the fact that after the completion of the Patten Brook NRI, it was decided to begin work on the Fowler River NRI. He pointed out that there is considerable work required prior to beginning; most notably securing the permission of land owners to enter their property. He asked when that process would begin. There was considerable discussion regarding expense, people's availability, and the benefits of a NRI over completing other projects such as the town forest. The consensus was that our decision to postpone work on additional NRIs in favor of working on the town forest should stand as it would have a greater immediate impact on our residents.

Jenny offered the suggestion that the commission should consider having a half day work session during which we would brainstorm ideas and developed short and long term projects and objectives for the commission – there are so many things that the commission can do for the betterment of the community, that it was felt that we needed to formally identify them, and put them in some sort of priority. All agreed and we will begin planning a session.

Ernie suggested that we create the position of Treasurer on the Commission. Although this individual [or anyone else on the Commission] will not have the authority to issue checks, they can keep track of Commission income and expenses and monitor monies within the Conservation Fund. Member of the Commission were in agreement; and it is expected that a member will be officially named to the position at our next meeting.

There being no further business brought before the Commission, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jenny and 2nd by Steve – motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 20:31. Our next scheduled meeting is December 2nd at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Steve Whitman, Secretary

