

**Minutes of the March 29, 2017
Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting**

Call meeting to order at 6:30pm. by Chairman Ernie Lamos

Members present: Ernie Lamos, Jennifer Tuthill, Steve Whitman, George Whittaker, Tom Larson, Kim Sharp, Ron McLean, Merry Ruggirello

Excused: 0

Absent: 0

BOS representative present: Bob Piehler

Approve minutes from 22 Feb mtg: motion to accept minutes as presented was made by Tom Larson and 2nd by Jennifer Tuthill . Motion passed unanimously.

Financials:

Financials were waived until April meeting

Permits: there were no permits to discuss

Old Business: was waived until April meeting

By-Law Changes: motion to accept the changes to the By-Laws as recommended and incorporate them into the By-Laws. The revised By-Laws will be voted on at April Meeting.

Motion to accept By-Law changes as presented was made by Steve Whitman and 2nd by Bob Piehler.
Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on topic of Town Forest

The following subjects were discussed:

1. Short Term Goals
 - a. Signs leading to the Town Forest and Signs within the Town Forest on trails.
 - Signs should be uniform in terms of colors and lettering
 - Kim Sharp is willing to make the trail signs. He has experience making trail signs
 - It was mentioned that a "Carry In / Carry out" sign would be good, as well signs to advise hikers to use normal precautions while hiking in hunting season.
 - b. Trails to be utilized and improved and new trails to be considered.
 - There are currently 2 trails in the Town Forest. It was decided that that we should concentrate on maintaining these 2 for the short term and decide about additional trails later.
2. Long Term Goals
 - a. Conservation Easement – It was decided that the commission was to continue pursuing the idea of placing the Town Forest property in a Conservation Easement in the future.
 - Fact finding is currently in process as Jennifer and Ernie are meeting with Lakes Region Trust before the April meeting. Jennifer will work with them to fill out any forms they require.
 - Kim Sharp will try to explore the Society for NH Forests as a possible alternative.
The possibility of a "Community Forest" by vote of the Town at Deliberative Session as a possible alternative to an easement.

- More information is needed before we will be able to decide if an easement is possible or advisable in our situation.

- b. Forest Plans – The committee went through a Forest Management Survey from the UNH Extension as a means of evaluating several important sub topics that need to be considered as we move forward. Some of the subjects discussed are as follows:
 - Should we use the services of a Natural Resources professional?
 - Is there a “Management Plan”
 - What is the primary management focus for the parcel?
 - What kinds of recreation is permissible?
 - The following activities were agreed upon as permissible:
Hiking, Horseback riding, Hunting (1 member was not in favor of hunting), Mountain biking, (1 member was not in favor of Mountain Bikes), Cross Country Skiing, camping.

- c. Forest Use restrictions – Members of the committee discussed several possible restrictions with regard to the use of the Town Forest.
The following was agreed upon as being NOT permitted.
Snowmobiles, ATV’s or Dirt Bikes

- d. Public Education/ Activities – The members were all in favor of utilizing the property to promote conservation education such as guided walks / hikes and use by groups such as Scouts etc.

All other business that may come before the Commission: waived until April meeting

Our next meeting will be April 26, 2017 (maybe the snow will be gone by then)

Respectfully Submitted
Tom Larson, Secretary
Alexandria Conservation Commission