

Minutes from the 29 July 2020 Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting

Call meeting to order at 18:35 by Chairman Ernest Lamos

Members Present: Ernest Lamos, Steve Whitman (via conference call), Jennifer Tuthill, Ron Maclean, Merry Ruggirello, and Dilys Morris. Dilys Morris was appointed by Chairman Ernest Lamos to act on behalf of George Whittaker for the duration of the meeting.

Excused: Deb Donohue

Absent: George Whittaker

BOS Representative: Bob Piehler was not available, there was no representative from the BOS

Guests: Rosie Homer, Audrey West, Doug Benton, and Diane Sanborn

- ❖ Approve minutes from January 2020 mtg. – minutes have not yet been located. A statement to this affect will be placed in the minutes record for that mtg. on the website and the item is considered closed.
- ❖ Approve minutes from the 24 June 2020 mtg. – Ernest Lamos made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Jennifer Tuthill 2nd and the motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Financials: 2020 Operating budget. – no change reported for the May 2020 statement of 5/28.
- ❖ Permits: None

Old Business

1. Status of benches honoring Kate Barrett and Janet Towse in Barrett Park – Jennifer Tuthill.
 - a. Jennifer was to take pictures and sent to respective families – Jennifer has sent pictures to family members
 - b. Jennifer & Ernie were to estimate value of materials used and present to the commission reimbursement options for Kim Sharp at the July mtg. – Ernest Lamos has requested the town issue a check in the amount of \$300 to Kim Sharp as reimbursement for expenses incurred for materials used by Kim for various projects on behalf of the Commission over the past 4 years. The commission members approved the request.
 - c. Jennifer was to draft ltr. to Kim Sharp for member's approval expressing the commission's thanks for his efforts on this project and all he did for the commission while a member. – Jennifer read the letter and the Commission members approved. Jennifer will hand deliver to Kim.
2. Status of coordination of efforts with Newfound Lake Regional Association; conservation crews for summer projects – Ernie Lamos

- a. Ernie will work with Jennifer to draw up a proposal and circulate it to members for comment before presenting it as a formal request. - Ernie will meet with Andrew Veilleux to view and discuss the Japanese knotweed issue in Barrett Park. The NLRA is not offering any assistance at this point other than sharing the results of their research. Jennifer and Ernie will draft a proposal and present it to NRLA for work needed on the trail(s) in the Town Forest. Audrey West [present at the mtg.] confirmed that this was work that the volunteer group was available to perform, and that she believed that they had room in their summer schedule to help.
3. Status of protecting town owned property(s) for conservation purposes a warrant article was to be drafted to require that any land owned by the town would need to be evaluated by the conservation commission to determine conservation interests/concerns before it could be put up for auction (suggested wording is contained in the Handbook for Conservation Commissions) – Bob Piehler/Steve Whitman
 - a. Suggested wording for the warrant article is in the NH Conservation Handbook and Commission members were encouraged to read it and make suggestions to Steve. The final article will be distributed to Commission members for approval prior to being presented to the BOS. – Commission members agreed that the wording contained in the handbook would suffice. Steve will formally present the warrant to the BOS for consideration by 1 Sept. 2020
4. Status of Website development by Peter Donohue – Steve Whitman
 - a. Commission members will be asked to provide input in the form of articles, pictures, etc. to help flesh out the page. A demo presentation for the August 2020 mtg. is being worked on with a launch date in October 2020. – currently on track for demo at Aug. mtg. Webpage can be viewed on town website and Commission members were encouraged to go in and try it out.
5. Status of improvements to the logging road and parking area servicing the Town Forest – Jennifer Tuthill – still no progress made on improvements to either the parking area or the road. Ron Maclean will attempt to meet with Ken Braley to get update; improvements are necessary to allow for easier access to the area.
6. Election of officers for 2020 – 2021 and review of Bylaws – Steve Whitman/Ernie Lamos – formal elections were deferred; however, the Commission is operating under the structure of the proposed slate: Ernest Lamos, Chairman, Jennifer Tuthill, Vice Chairwoman, and Steve Whitman, Secretary.

New Business

1. August is Alexandria's month to contribute a Conservation Matters article to the Record Enterprise. Who wants to volunteer to write it? Steve is coordinating with Jessica Halm. – Dilys Morris has volunteered to write the August article. It was decided that responsibility for future articles should be rotated between members.

2. Discuss replacement of Kim on the Commission. – A motion was made by Jennifer Tuthill, 2nd by Steve Whitman to elect Dilys Morris to fill the vacancy created when Ken Sharp did not seek to have his appointment extended. The motion was passed unanimously. Ernie will notify the BOS. Because Dilys was already an Alternate appointed by the BOS, the BOS is not required to approve her appointment as a permanent commission member. Her term will expire in 2023.
3. Rosie Homer will discuss a new initiative she is planning to help people learn more about Alexandria; ***Discover Alexandria***. – Rosie gave a nice overview of the program she is instituting and provided handouts. The program is modeled after a similar program supported by the AMC.
4. Any other business that may be presented by the commission or attendees.
 - a. It was reported that one of the recently installed benches at Barrett has been damaged. Ron Maclean will evaluate and determine what/how repairs should be done.
 - b. Ron Maclean will follow up with NH DES to see what steps they have taken to eliminate the knotweed along various state highways in the area and determine if similar strategies can be used in Barrett Park.
 - c. Perennial plantings at Barrett Park will be done over time in appropriate areas as soil conditions permit.

Meeting was adjourned at 20:03 by Ernest Lamos. Our next meeting will be 26 August 2020.