

## **Minutes for the August 26, 2020 Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting**

These minutes are only a draft copy and subject to change until approved by commission members at a scheduled 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, Dilys Morris.

Excused: Deb Donohue and George Whittaker

Absent:

BOS Representative: Bob Piehler

Guests:

- ❖ Approve minutes from the 29 July 2020 mtg. *Steve made a motion that the minutes be accepted as presented, Jennifer 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.*
- ❖ Financials: 2020 Operating budget. *As of 8/26/2020, our balance in the operating budget was \$1114.*
- ❖ Permits: *None*

### **Old Business**

1. Status of coordination of efforts with Newfound Lake Regional Association; conservation crews for summer projects – Ernie Lamos. *Ernie reported that Andrew Veilleux had not returned his call; Ernie will follow-up.*
2. 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. Commission members agreed that the wording contained in the handbook would suffice. *Steve reported that he will formally present this to the BOS when he returns to NH the week of 31 Aug.*
3. Status of Website development by Peter Donohue – Steve Whitman. *Steve reported that the site was up and working, but that it still needs some tweaking. The new site will be announced to the public Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> via the town newsletter and on our facebook page.*
4. Status of improvements to the logging road and parking area servicing the Town Forest – Jennifer Tuthill. *Ken Braley will complete the repair of the logging road leading to the property before winter.*
5. Barrett bench in Barrett Park has been damaged. Ron Maclean will evaluate and determine what/how repairs should be done – Ron Maclean. *Ron has looked at the bench and will try to repair it by reattaching the bench portion with construction glue*

*and clamp vs. replacing the bench. If his does not work, repair techniques will be reevaluated.*

6. 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 – Ron Maclean. *Ron has contacted the NH DOT and was advised that the knotweed was killed using a chemical spray, **not Roundup**. The only restriction was that it could not be used within 50 ft. of open water. Ron said that he needed to contact the DOT again to get the name of the product and see if the town qualified for any “special” consideration because the knotweed is on town property. No permitting is required to apply this chemical spray.*
7. Election of officers for 2020 – 2021 and review of Bylaws – Steve Whitman/Ernie Lamos. *The proposed slate of officers prepared for our April 2020 mtg. was presented to be voted on: Ernest Lamos, Chairman, Jennifer Tuthill, Vice Chairwoman, and Steve Whitman as Secretary. The vote was 6 in favor, 1 against, and 0 abstentions. These terms will run for 1 year ending 30 April 2021.*

## **New Business**

1. Town Forest. Recent activity on properties surrounding the Town Forest have caused us to reevaluate our long-term plans for the Town Forest. We reaffirmed our goals for the property as being 1) create and maintain wildlife habitat, 2) use the property to educate the public, and 3) provide recreational opportunities on the property. There will be no logging for profit and motorized vehicles such as dirt bikes and snowmobiles will not be allowed on any of the hiking trails. To accomplish these goals, we agreed that we needed to develop a comprehensive Management Plan. A committee was formed consisting of Dilys Morris, Merry Ruggirello, and Ernest Lamos, other commission members will assist this committee as needed. More specifics on the committee will be forthcoming; however, the initial charge is to develop a comprehensive management plan for the Town Forest to attain and support our goals. Dave Sharp, forester/logger, will continue to work with us as he has for the last 5 yrs.

Jennifer distributed handouts; a town tax map showing locations and characteristics of abutting properties and updated informational material to be included in the current pamphlets. There was a brief discussion about other materials which should be developed for the Town Forest such as trail maps and a reference guide to specific points of interest within the forest area. She also discussed conversations she’s had regarding plans the new owner of the abutting 700 acres has for that property, which will affect how we manage the Town Forest; at the present time, plans are to log the property 3 – 5 years from now once the new growth has had a little more time to mature.

2. Ernie will obtain signs to be place on various roads in town directing people to the Town Forest - *Ernie Lamos*

3. Boundary lines for the property need to be repainted and it was decided that we should wait until the leaves are off the trees to do this.
4. The commission wishes to thank Dilys for writing the August *Conservation Matters* article for the Record Enterprise on behalf of the Alexandria Conservation Commission.

Meeting was adjourned at 19:40 by Ernest Lamos. Our next meeting will be 30 September 2020.