

Minutes for the April 28, 2021 Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting

Call meeting to order at 18:37 by Ernest Lamos

Members Present: Ernest Lamos, Jennifer Tuthill, Steve Whitman, and Merry Ruggirello who attended remotely

Excused: George Whittaker

Absent: Ron Maclean, Audrey West, Tom Guilmette

BOS Representative: Bob Piehler

Guests: Rosie Homer

- ❖ Approve minutes from the 31 March 2021 mtg. Motion to accept minutes was made by Bob Piehler and 2nd by Jennifer Tuthill. ***Minutes were accepted as presented.***
- ❖ Financials: Purposed 2021 Operating Budget. ***\$59 has been spent for the purchase of a banner promoting monthly roadside clean-up.***

Guest Speaker: ***Mark Avery was scheduled to speak to us and answered questions pertaining to the control and eventual eradication of the Japanese Knotweed in Barrett Park; however, he was unable to attend and has been rescheduled for our May mtg.***

Old Business:

1. Status of Website: Updating for change in officers and upcoming ACC activities continues to need editing. Corrections still need to be made to webpage to update member status, which will be addressed after the April elections. Known corrections to the webpage will be made after the 28 April election of officers. It was agreed that the road clean-up schedule will be posted on the webpage; Jennifer T. will coordinate the posting. ***A major project “keep Alexandria Beautiful” has been established to report this activity and will be fine-tuned along with other changes in May 2021. Steve will work with Jennifer D. to coordinate this effort.***
2. Status of Town Forest Management Plan: Ernie and Merry will meet in January to work on a plan. Audrey West suggested accessing plans by other towns with TF management plans to develop language and structure for ours. They agreed that this would be part of their plan. Meeting has not been held; however, once the vacancy is filled, a meeting will be convened, and a plan developed. This will be addressed once the road to the Town Forest is more accessible. ***A plan has not yet been established; however, Ernie has been reviewing plans from other towns. There is still a vacancy on the committee, which Ernie will move to fill and schedule a meeting.***
3. Status of TF signs along town roads: Ernie, Jenny, and Keagen Andrews put up two of the four signs. Snow and misalignment require further adjustments for two signs. Ken Braley suggested placement site for the sign at the bottom of the class 6 road by his house. All but 1 sign have been placed. Ernie will attach the last sign to a tree at the base of the class 6 road near Ken’s house when weather permits – sign needs a “left” arrow. Winter has taken its toll and signs will be checked to be sure they are still in place and not damaged. ***Investigation has revealed that the sign at the intersection of Mt. Cardigan Rd. and Hutchens Hill Rd. has vanished and a large***

rock has been placed at the entrance to the class 6 road off Hutchens Hill. A new sign has been ordered and the rock will be removed. There was a lengthy discussion about liability and maintenance of a class 6 road and Jenny and Bob will talk to town council.

4. Status of repainting boundary markers at the Town Forest: after discussion, it was decided to have a TF community activity in April specifically to mark the TF boundaries. - Ernie will be in charge of organizing the community activity planned for April 2021. This activity will fall under the 2021 major projects and will include working with AmeriCorps volunteers in clearing and maintaining trails, creating new trails, and designating boundary markers. Informational signage will also be addressed but will probably fall outside of the work done by AmeriCorp volunteers. Jennifer T. will coordinate with Andrew Veilleux. **Jenny has spoken with Andrew and basically outlined what work will be done this summer in the town forest and is waiting to hear from Andrew to finalize (see item # 6 Old Business)**
5. Status of replacing member for Management Plan Committee. **Jenny will speak with Tom about to see if there is any interest on his part to join the committee.**
6. Status of Potential projects for 2021: These are the projects that are under consideration for 2021. As each project comes to fruition, it will become its own entity and be reported on individually. At this time, projects may be added or deleted depending on available resources.
 - Mapping of Town Forest trails, creating a border trail, marking points of interest in TF. **Jenny working with Andrew re AmeriCorp volunteers**
 - Monthly Litter Pickup continued when snowbanks have melted. **First pick-up was April 3rd. Schedule has been posted on facebook page and website.**
 - Barrett Park weed control- can use two forms of weed control for Japanese Knotweed and have as a demonstration to community; have a community presentation regarding weed control and then onsite visit(s). Extension service can be involved. **Speaker from DES could not attend and was rescheduled for May mtg. 2021 priorities are: knotweed control, pruning of vegetation to improve view of bog, better protection/identification of turtle nesting area, and development mission statement for park – Steve to coordinate mission statement. Landscape plant was discussed conceptually, but tabled for discussion at future mtgs.**
7. Status of the re-design of graphics and text for ACC pamphlets. This has been completed for the Town Forest and the Commission signed off on the new pamphlet. Jennifer T. will coordinate the printing and distribution of the pamphlet. **New pamphlets have been developed and we will print 100 copies of each.**
8. Status of the Photo contest. It was agreed to hold the contest (theme to be decided upon) from 15 April to 30 September so that calendars can be ready for sale by Thanksgiving. Jennifer T. will coordinate activities. **Theme of 2021 contest is “Exploring Alexandria through Photography” Posters advertising event were approved and will be posted to promote contest. Entries will be accepted for pictures taken in Alexandria by amateur photographers.**

New Business

1. Vote to accept or reject the proposed Bylaw change recommendations. Recommended changes were for clarification of articles already a part of our Bylaws, with one major change being the removal of responsibilities of the Commission with respects to Reviews involving wetlands and

gravel pits to a Procedural and Policy Auxiliary Document to be made part of the Bylaws. There were no recommendations for changes to the proposed new document and they were distributed as presented to the membership for further review and a vote to accept or reject on 28 April 2021. ***Bylaw changes and Auxiliary Procedures and Policy document were approved by a vote of 4 – 1 – 3 and are effective immediately.***

2. ***Nominations and election of officers to service a one (1) year term beginning 1 May 2021 through 30 April 2022.***
 - a. ***For the position of Chairperson, Jennifer Tuthill was nominated by Merry Ruggirello and 2nd by Ernest Lamos. Vote was unanimous.***
 - b. ***For the position of Vice Chairperson, Ernest Lamos was nominated by Jennifer Tuthill and 2nd by Merry Ruggirello. Vote was unanimous.***
 - c. ***For the position of Secretary, Steve Whitman was nominated by Jennifer Tuthill and 2nd by Ernest Lamos. Vote was unanimous.***
3. **All other new business to be considered by the Commission at this meeting:**
 - a. ***It was brought to the attention of the Conservation Commission that disturbance of wetlands is occurring on Plumer Hill Rd. and Lake View Heights. The Commission is following up on these reports and will refer their findings to DES if warranted.***
 - b. ***The town has been notified that DES will be sending a team from the Geological Survey team to perform stream Crossing Assessments in the town this summer. The purpose of this assessment is, in part, to determine the vulnerability of culvert at a range of storm flows. More information on the Stream Crossing Initiative can be found at: <https://www.des.nh.gov/land/roads/stream-crossings>.***

There being no other new business, the meeting was adjourned by Ernie Lamos at 20:07. Our next meeting will be 26 MAY 2021, at the Alexandria Village School.