

Minutes from the March 31, 2021 Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting

Call meeting to order by Ernie Lamos at 18:33

Members Present: Ernest Lamos, Jennifer Tuthill, Audrey West, Ron Maclean, and Steve Whitman

Excused: George Whittaker

Absent: Merry Ruggirello

BOS Representative: Bob Piehler

Guests: Lesley McGowen, Tom Guilmette, and Rosie Homer

- ❖ Approve minutes from the 27 Jan. 2021 mtg. Motion to accept minutes was made by– Steve and 2nd by Audrey. ***Minutes were accepted as presented.***
- ❖ Financials: 2020 Operating Budget. ***Expenditures for 2020 were posted at \$797 under budget by \$804 as the result of not attending any training events due to the COVIN-19 restrictions.***
- ❖ Financials: Purposed 2021 Operating Budget. ***2021 budgeted amount is \$1,600 and voters approved on 9 March 2021.***

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. There was a discussion as to who could make changes to the webpage and it was agreed that any posts should be circulated to members for approval and be sent to Jennifer D. after approval to be posted as directed. It was agreed that the road clean-up schedule will be posted on the webpage; Jennifer T. will coordinate the posting.***
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.***
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.***
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.

5. Status of replacing member for Management Plan Committee. ***The vacancy on the MPC remains open at this time.***
6. Status of the review of Bylaws for vote at April mtg. Steve reminded commission members that a review of our Bylaws is upcoming, and any changes must be finalized by 3/31 and send to or members for review and a final vote at our April mtg. Commission members are encouraged to review the Bylaws. Steve suggested that particular attention be paid to sections V.D. and VI. ***Suggested changes were emailed to all Commission members a week prior to the March meeting for review. There was considerable discussion about whether any changes were necessary as the Commission ultimately has no "authority" other than to bring issues to the attention of the DES. Steve pointed out that our Bylaws serve as a guideline for our commission to follow. 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 it will be distributed as presented to the membership for further review and a vote to accept or reject on 28 April 2021.***
7. Status of moving forward with moving future meetings to the Alexandria School House. After our initial meeting at the Village School, it was felt that the facility could be modified to accommodate future ACC meetings and that there was the potential for the ACC to make additional modifications to expand the facility's usefulness to the community keeping an overall theme of the importance of conservation. ***It was unanimously agreed that future meetings of the Conservation Commission should be held at the Alexandria Village School and that the facility should be enhanced to serve as a learning facility to promote conservation initiatives.***
8. Steve will send out a reminder to commission members needing to have their appointments extended by the BOS in April 2021 because their current appointments expire. Emails have been sent and 1 member has been re-appointed by the BOS for an add'l 3-year term. No add'l follow-ups are planned. ***There are 2 current members who have not yet contacted the BOS for extensions of their appointments to the commission. Unless appoints are extended, they will relinquish membership as of 1 May 2021.***
9. 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.
 - Monthly Litter Pickup continued when snowbanks have melted.
 - 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.

Activity in the Town Forest and Barrett Park will be assisted by AmeriCorp volunteers. Activities in the Town Forest are outlined in item # 4 above. Roadside clean-up schedule will be posted both on our facebook and webpage. A restoration landscape plan for Barrett Park is being considered.

This effort will involve AmeriCorp volunteers as well as volunteers from the community. Bob Piehler is work with the state regarding the state spraying the knotweed vegetation to eradicate it permanently.

New Business

- 1.** Re-design of graphics and text for ACC pamphlets; Audrey and Jenny will begin work on this. ***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.***
- 2.** Photo contest re-started with a possible theme of "Covid-19 Photos from Alexandria. ***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.***
- 3.** Meet with Andrew about projects in Town Forest and Barrett Park. ***See # 4 and #9 above.***

The meeting was adjourned by Ernie Lamos at 20:17. Our next meeting will be 28 April 2021, at the Alexandria Village School.