

Minutes for the 27 October, 2021 Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting

These minutes are not considered official until approved at a regularly scheduled ACC meeting

Call meeting to order at 18:38 by Chair Jennifer Tuthill

Members Present: Jennifer Tuthill, Merry Ruggirello, Tom Guilmette, Rosie Homer , and Steve Whitman

Excused: George Whittaker, Ernest Lamos, Ron Maclean

Absent:

BOS Representative: Bob Piehler

Alternate Rosie Homer was designated to represent Ernest Lamos and Tom Guimette was designated to represent Ron Maclean.

Guests: None

- ❖ Approve minutes from the 25 August 2021 mtg. Motion to accept minutes was made by Bob and 2nd by Merry. ***Minutes were accepted as presented.***
- ❖ Financials: **2021 Operating Budget. There were no new expenses incurred since our August accounting. Balance as of 10/27/2021: \$1029.00**
- ❖ Permits: **None**

Old Business:

1. Status of the Photo contest. It was agreed to hold the contest from 15 April to 30 September so that calendars can be ready for sale by Thanksgiving. Theme of 2021 contest is "Exploring Alexandria through Photography". **The deadline for submission has been extended until 1 Nov. Tom and Jenny will coordinate the judging and calendar printing.**
2. Status of Preservation plan for Barrett Park. The ACC was tasked with developing a plan for the area known as Barrett Park and present it to the Select Board for their consideration and endorsement. It was agreed that the preservation plan Barrett Park will be incorporated into the larger overall plan for the entire bog area. The kiosk will be relocated to the Town Forest. **A planning session with Dan Moore has been scheduled for 11/13 at which time Dan will assist the ACC members in formulating an overall plan for both the Park area and the Bog in general. It was the consensus of the Commission members that the master plan should be subdivided into segments for more effective management. While each segment may have individual objectives, all activities will support the common overall objectives of the master plan.**
3. Status of the Brainstorming session scheduled for 27 September 2021. The session was cancelled as many Commission members were able to attend. It was concluded by the Commission that the 'management plan' for Barrett Park should be a smaller segment within a 'management plan' for the entire Alexandria Bog and include a wide variety of strategies and supportive activities to include communication/education needs and core issues covered in a management plan. **See # 2 above.**
4. The NH Bio Blitz program sponsored by NHU Extension in September 2021. **The ACC hike at the Town Forest using inaturalist technology in support of the Bio Blitz had to be cancelled.**
5. Status of designating lot #55 (owned by the town) as a "Town Forest". The land abuts the bog and is primarily wetlands and unbuildable. **A letter was drafted and presented he the BOS for consideration and they have agreed to present a warrant supporting the request for consideration in March 2022.**

New Business

1. Conservation Matters Record Enterprise article; who wants to do it? **Jenny has written an article which was read to the Commission members at the meeting. All had favorable comments and agreed that the article should be forwarded to Jess Halm for distribution.**
2. Does the designation of "Town Forest" protect the property from sale and future development, or does it require a conservation easement of some type? **Jenny responded that the designation as a Town Forest does not protect the land in perpetuity; however, if the residents approve a warrant article so designating it, this is an indication that the residents want it preserved for recreational enjoyment.**
3. Barrett Park. It has been suggested that the park be designated as a "turtle sanctuary area" and managed as such. **See #s 2 & 3 Old Business. As Barrett Park does provide nesting areas and natural habitat for turtles, a "turtle sanctuary" will in all probably be part of the protection program for that area.**
4. Set meeting dates for the November and December 2021. **November's mtg. has been changed to Monday 11/29. December's mtg. has not been moved and remains Wednesday 12/29. It was felt that by moving the November meeting date it would allow Commission members to spend time with their families during the holiday period.**
5. All other new business to be considered by the Commission at this meeting. **There was no other ACC business brought to the attention of the Commission. A motion was made by Merry and 2nd by Bob to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed and the meeting adjourned by Jennifer Tuthill at 19:47.**