

Minutes for March 30, 2022 Alexandria Conservation Commission

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 by Chair Jennifer Tuthill.

Members present: Jennifer Tuthill, Ernie Lamos, Merry Ruggirello, Rosie Homer, Tom Guilmette

Excused: Steve Whitman

POS Representative: Bob Piehler

Guest: Doug Serotnak

Doug introduced himself as an Alexandria resident who worked for the Forest Service for 10 years in the area of recreation.

Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes from January 26, Bob seconded, minutes accepted.

Financials: 2022 Operating Budget: as of 2/22 our operating budget is

Permits: None

Old Business:

1. Discussion of upcoming election of officers. Tom and Rosie both made it clear that they have no intention of serving as officers but definitely will continue as members of the commission. Jenny mentioned that she is not seeking the chair but she and Ernie both said they would serve if elected.
2. There has been no movement by DES on any of the three issues regarding wetlands. Erin Darrow has been contacted regarding the topic but has not responded. Bob mentioned that the offender dumping manure into the Smith River has purchased property in Arizona and the horses will be moving there, possibly eliminating the problem entirely. ACC members were asked to check the area on their own during the next few weeks to verify whether or not there continues to be manure waste dumped over the bank.

3. Turtle Preserve lot, and new Town Forest lot, do not appear to have been surveyed according to town records via Jen Dostie.

It was agreed by all (motion by JT, second by BP) that surveying will be needed for both plots in order to responsibly manage these properties. Colin Brown has agreed to put surveying of these plots on his schedule for this summer. He will look into what information he needs, and get back to us with an estimate as to the costs.

Maintenance for the Preserve: scheduled for November, which will involve cutting grasses, tending brush and soil in the Preserve area per directions from Josh Megyesy of NH Fish and Game.

F&G will be doing a turtle study on Fowler River Rd and along Patten Brook sometime this spring.

Game cameras in Preserve- after discussion, it was decided that Tom G. will research types and prices of cameras that would be appropriate for the Preserve area and Pittman Town Forest. Two cameras in the Preserve area can be set low, and on a timer to catch nesting turtles at work. It was decided that we could utilize four cameras in all, two in the Preserve to catch active nesting with a 3rd up a tree viewing main the area (per police recommendation), and one camera for Pittman Town forest. We already own one camera which has not functioned properly but it is hoped it can be re-formatted. Purchasing three could be finalized when Tom has presented his information and suggestions.

4. Conservation Easements for Preserve plot, and new Town Forest plot: A long discussion was held regarding the pros and cons for taking this step. It was moved (BP) that we look into the details involved in putting land into easements. EL seconded; all were in favor. Jenny will

gather information from local organizations and individuals for possible grant help as well as interest in holding easements. In order to meet acreage requirements, the new TF plot may require 10 acres total. If so, the idea of purchasing 2 acres from the adjacent lot owned by Chet Walker and family was discussed. It was agreed that conversation with the Walker family will need to take place some time in the future.

5. Roadside litter pickup will begin this Saturday at 9 a.m. Jenny made a motion to purchase four more picker tools; EL seconded, all approved. Volunteers will meet at the Municipal Building parking lot. Bags and buckets provided.

6. Kiosk re-erecting: Tom, Bob and Rosie all volunteered to start by trying to shovel post holes for the kiosk. The town road crew does not have a post hole digger, and their backhoe would only create a large trench. Digging is planned for late April when the ground has defrosted.

7. A change of meeting time was discussed. It was agreed to keep 6:30 on Wednesdays time.

8. Update on Dan Moore, who due to health issues will be unable to continue to work with us in the future

9. Naming of the new town forest lot was discussed. MR made the motion, JT seconded, all agreed to name the lot **George Whittaker Town Forest**, and order a permanent sign with that wording. Ernie will discuss this with George to see if he approves. If so, the naming proposal will be brought to the select board for approval.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Next meeting : **APRIL 20 6:30 pm.** (Jenny will be out of town the following week).