

**ACC July 13, 2016 Minutes – Draft**  
**Amherst Town Hall**

**Chair Daryl called the meeting to order at 7:03**

**Attendance:** Daryl, Rob, Rich, Lee, Wes, Vick Bennison, alternates, Bruce, Anne and Jared Hardner, Selectman Peter Lyons

**Guests:** Ward Bennett, 8 Bloody Brook Rd., Bill & Pat Paxton, Stearns Rd., Frank Montesanto, Christian Hill Rd, FOTO

Special Presentation by **Jeff Taylor, Vegetation Control Services**, Athol MA, cell 603-762-1131

Mr. Taylor was invited to discuss options for poison ivy control at Lindabury Orchard. He has been in the business for 46 years, and is a member of his town, Richmond, NH Conservation Commission since 1972, so understands the problem of poison ivy and other nuisance vegetation presents on public land. A long-term perspective is required in landscape management issues. Clearly defined goals and outcomes need to be decided regarding the desired use of the land. Example of various uses: regularly mowed fields, return to eventual agricultural use, return to early succession forest, or encouragement of flowers/pollinators, or a poison ivy field with regularly mowed walking paths clear of poison ivy. (Budget is a key factor in this decision).

Mr. Taylor recommends an integrated approach of selective herbicide applications combined with mowing to try to achieve a natural balance as it is impossible to eradicate nuisance plants because birds, wind, water continually spread the seeds. Herbicides do control/kill the extensive poison ivy root systems.

Questions and discussion – Rich provided background/history noting the success with the upper orchard. However the lower orchard area has been mowed only once a season and is totally gone to poison ivy. Jeff replied that to achieve poison ivy control by mowing, it must be done 3 time a season, combined with herbicide treatment. The idea is to encourage grass which is a great competitor to poison ivy if it is thick sod. He discussed springtime applications of broadleaf herbicides, but they also kill all broadleaf plants like clover and milkweed.

Lee – with 3 mowings a season, how long before people could safely walk in the area? Jeff- depends, but several years. Height of mowing? 1 ½ - 2". Guest Ward Bennett asked about cut surface treatment of vines in trees. Jeff explained that the newly cut surfaces (stems) must be treated with herbicide the same day for it to work. This can be done in dormant season when there are no Poison Ivy leaves to brush against skin.

Rob asked about eventually relying on brush hogging. Jeff suggested access points or paths where close mowing is continued for safe access.

Discussion of public reaction to use of herbicides; Jeff has found that when treating poison ivy there is not much objection. Since the apples are a crop, any herbicides used must be registered for crop land. He recommended public notification & education when a plan is determined.

Frank pointed out the 15 acre field that is now a carpet of poison ivy, and asked if it would be possible to break down the project timeline into zones or did it have to be all at once? Would it be a waste of funds and effort to do certain areas at a time.

Discussion of the method to be used to remove the old apple trees in the lower field; Lee explained that the stumps will be removed. This will expose bare soil – Jeff recommended immediate sowing of a conservation seed mix to prevent noxious seeds from germinating.

Daryl asked about timing to herbicide treatments. Jeff explained that the broadleaf herbicides work best in spring and glyphosate products work best in late summer until frost. Then plants are translocating sugars from leaves to roots. (Glyphosate is an effective way of killing multiflora roses too.)

Daryl pointed out that all of Christian Hill is poison ivy infested and asked about encouraging neighbors to participate in the effort to control poison ivy (ask Town DPW treat roadsides too!). Jeff replied "The bigger the better." He explained the 'Line of Demarcation' strategy – begin with the periphery and work toward the center main infestation for best control.

Rob noted that the Orchard Working Group (OHWG) needs to determine the vision or goal.

Jeff – identify what is important, and establish specific objectives. He is willing to help the sub-committee figure this out – they will need cost information.

All thanked Mr. Taylor for his comprehensive presentation.

Continuing the **Meadows** Topic - Lee reported:

Upper Bragdon – Scott Tiedemann was hired to clear rocks and trees which he recently completed

Lee recommended the meadows workshop

Lee submitted the complete Invoice from Mike Riccitelli for mowing for the 2015 season that totaled 43 hours @ \$65/hour = \$2,795.00. Attached.

Question about whether the logging on Haseltine is finished – has not heard from Charlie Koch.

Lee commented that Jeff Taylor presented a wide range of information but said that in summary spraying precedes mowing and that herbicides work! Rob asked whether the reseeding after the tree removal was in our contract with Scott – yes. What about the poison ivy signs? Rich has on his to do list. After discussion he decided to make simple laminated signs to use until a control program is started. So will need only \$15 - \$25 of the \$200 sign budget.

#### **Regular Meeting Agenda:**

**Chair Comments** – Daryl explained that she tried to keep the agenda to a reasonable length, but it grew. Occasional bi-monthly meetings are an option.

**June minutes** – Rob said the draft is on the web-site. No further corrections. Approved

**Finance and Assets Report** – Daryl presenting for John:

#### **Finances and Asset Manager Role**

- **Treasurer:** *Maintain visibility and reporting of ACC accounts. Coordinate as necessary with the Town Treasurer and Finance Department on transactions and reconciliations.*
- **Contracts and Purchases:** *Administer all ACC contracts through bids, awards and payments according to the town Purchasing Policy.*
- **Assets:** *Maintain cognizance of all assets managed by the ACC. Lead acquisition of or join with a town departmental asset management software database that maintains the assets list and provides management analyses for decision making.*

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Conservation Fund	\$488,702.89
Town Budget 2016	33.00 unspent and donated to Town
2017	14,150.00 (includes \$1,100 for recorder)
Gift Account	15,198.72

Contracts and Purchases – **Lindabury Orchard Contract** won by Scott Tiedemann for \$4,200 needs to be approved. Wes moved that it be approved as written, Rob 2<sup>nd</sup>. No further discussion. **Approved unanimously.** Treasurer to determine what budget lines to use for funding.

#### **Contracts and Purchases:**

- Easels: \$40/Town, Rich, July 4 [already approved, noted for the minutes]

- Lindabury Orchard:
  - Clear lower orchard awarded to Scott Tiedemann: \$4200, late August.
    - \$1,500/Town Obligation Budget
    - \$1,700/ACC
    - \$1,000/FOTO
- **Wes moved to approve contract as written, Rob 2<sup>nd</sup>. No further discussion. Vote – approved – Lee abstained.**
- Repair shed: \$3,500/Town Obligation Budget (not ACC nor FOTO – Town asset in dangerous condition) [already completed, noted for the minutes]
- Boston Post Rd Canoeport: Awarded to Jeff Mazur (Beneficial Building), \$2330/ Town Obligation Budget (not ACC, Town asset in dangerous condition) [noted for the minutes]
- Survey Old Mail Road Corners at Horace Greeley Road: \$500/Town, awarded to Meridian Land Services (John) [noted for the minutes]
- Mike Riccitelli Services Agreement contract: same rates: \$65 for mowing and \$75 for backhoe work. Lee moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the Riccitelli Services Contract. No further discussion. Approved unanimously. Document needs Daryl's signature.

#### **Assets**

- Investigated Community Development software for Asset Management capability – none.
- Finance Dept. new system software has limited listing capability, no analysis.

#### **Purchasing Tutorial**

**Purchasing Tutorial - Read into the minutes and discussed on July 13, 2016.**

- The Commission must vote all new expenditures and authorize someone to be lead *OR, for pre-approved Town budget items under \$1K, the item, amount and lead person must be noted in the minutes.*
- Thresholds:
  - Commission \$1 to \$1K direct to vendor/contractor without further approval
  - Town Administrator \$1K - \$5K with three informal quotes
  - Greater than \$5K Town Administrator to BoS with three written quotes and justification
  - Above \$10K need RFQ with formal sealed bids
- The Finance and Asset Manager is the sole point of contact for all purchases.

#### **Planning Board – Rich**

1. Approved the conversion of a property on Hickory Drive from apartments to condominiums. - see June minutes.
2. Scenic Rd application for tree removal by Amherst DPW for road upgrades for Baboosic Lake Rd. and Pond Parish Road. They approved the Baboosic Lake Rd. application but tabled the Pond Parish application until next week as they had not walked the site.

#### **Plans and Permits – Daryl**

A **Minor Wetlands Permit Application** was sent to ACC for 12 Broadway Wenzel property subdivision with a driveway crossing a wetland stream that flows into Baboosic Lake. This was the first time ACC has received or seen this new type of application from DES. It offers several options to Conservation Commissions who review such applications; one is to not sign which kicks the application back to DES and it becomes a standard wetlands application that DES reviews more extensively and does not include local CC signature. Discussion – the Planning board asked that, contrary to ACC suggestion for a narrow

drive and bridge, that they both be wider for safety reasons. This adds 200 sq. ft. of wetland impact. The driveways have been cleared, so the project is active.

**Wes moved that ACC approve the application, Rob 2<sup>nd</sup>.** No further discussion. **Unanimous approval**  
Wes offered to investigate this new DES process to find out the difference between a 'minor' and an 'Expedited' review.

#### **Souhegan Watershed Association donation request - Rich**

The SWA has no budget for local volunteer water quality testing and depends on local communities to fund the expenses for supplies. Daryl is a volunteer tester. Rich moved that **ACC donate \$100, Wes 2<sup>nd</sup>.**  
Discussion – Rob suggested that the \$100 come from his \$500 line item for Souhegan River Habitat Inventory. **Unanimous approval**

#### **Habitat for Humanity – Daryl**

The organization contacted Daryl to offer construction services - labor, while they are between projects. Daryl sent Bill Stoughton, the local president and former trail steward, 3 project ideas. One, rebuilding the Nathaniel Drive trail staircase may require more lumber than we have on hand. Rob moved that ACC **allocate up to \$500** from the ACC Conservation Account for materials as needed for the selected project. Wes 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Unanimous approval.** Anne offered to do photos and submit an article to the paper.

#### **Trail Tools for ACC and Rec Department – Daryl**

PMEC is offering a summer camp for older kids that includes a weekly day of trail work. Craig Fraley, Rec. Director has some tools; ACC has none. He suggested that ACC and Rec. share the cost of buying tools 50% - 50% (either organization that breaks or loses a tool replaces it). Daryl contacted Lew Shelley Trail Workshop leader, for a list of basic tools. They would be stored in a locked room in the PMEC basement with a check-out system. Discussion. Bruce asked who is doing the shopping. Wes. Bruce suggested he contact Jim Infanti at County Stores.

**Wes moved and Lee 2<sup>nd</sup> that ACC allocate \$200** to be matched by the Rec Dept. to buy trail tools. **Approved unanimously.** The treasurer will decide where this will come from the budget.

#### **Scenic Roads - Bruce and Rich**

As an abutter to Pond Parish Road should ACC take a position about the proposed cutting of 49 trees along a 1 ½ mile section for road upgrades? Peter explained that the Planning Board must give an opinion regarding the DPW application. A hearing was held on July 6, 2016. 8 people objected citing that the trees create the unique beauty of the road.

Frank said that when this happened on Christian Hill Rd accommodations were made by DPW. Rob checked the trees – are between the pavement and the stone walls. He added that DPW has done a nice job along other scenic roads in town when removing trees for highway projects.

**Daryl asked if ACC should take a position – consensus NO.**

#### **Trails – AHL – Wes**

Daryl explained that Wes is going to become the Trails Development Chair and is working on trails in AHL and Ceasar's Brook.

The logging is finished in AHL and there is a clearing for a parking lot. Wes will work with Jared in developing objectives for trail development – shared use, etc. But immediately he is going to work with Rec Dept. campers who will be on site 7/25, 8/1 & 8/8 from 9 -4. After safety training, he will split them into 3 groups with 2 counselors and work on simple trail development projects.

### **Eagle Scout Project Ideas**

An Eagle Scout candidate is looking for a project ideas; Daryl suggested something at the landfill – land that Betty Arnold donated to the town with hopes that it would be returned to forest one day. Not a lot of support for the attractiveness of a trail there. Wes offered to help him select a suitable project that would incorporate the Eagle requirements on the lands he is overseeing.

### **Round Table**

**Rich** – Updated on the Lindabury Orchard Working Group (LOWG) that has met twice (minutes from first meeting sent to ACC) about the long-term vision and plan for the orchard. He sees progress and hopes for a plan by fall.

**Lee** – Referenced this great UNH Extension Grasslands workshop on June 20:

[http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource003878\\_Rep8461.pdf](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource003878_Rep8461.pdf)

**Wes** – Need to discuss a Trails Committee at next meeting

**Daryl** – Frank is applying to become an alternate member of ACC and will bring expertise on infrastructure management.

**Vic** – interested in the ACC web site – will get together with Rich

**Bruce** –

- The potential for extending the Pond Parish Trail behind the Pond Parish road abutter has been reopened. I have sent a letter (copy distributed for the record) to the 10 abutters saying I will flag a possible route, staying on Town land. Comments requested and 1 on 1 meetings invited. Trail work after Labor Day.
- Passed around realtor's info sheet on 24 Brook Rd. listing (formerly the Fraser property) for \$895,000. Current owner paid \$555,000. Bruce suggested an offering price if the conservation community has interest.  
[http://www.landandfarm.com/property/Land\\_Amherst\\_NH-2919835/](http://www.landandfarm.com/property/Land_Amherst_NH-2919835/)
- Bruce said he will do a plan for study and management of the PPTF and GW areas as a unit in cooperation with Amherst Heritage Commission and Merrimack CC, if they wish.
- Pulpit and JH trail mowing started
- No action taken on securing manuals for commissioners pending further instructions. Samples and pricing suggested.

**Jared** – has been asked for more information about the failed Hazen Land purchase. He suggested that ACC release a follow-up statement to indicate what projects it will focus on since that that one was aborted by the owners. Bruce will draft an outline of what types of projects ACC looks for, and some of the many ways these things sometimes do not come to fruition.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Krantz, secretary

DRAFT