

ACC March 11, 2015 - Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair John Harvey 7:05

Attendance: John Harvey, Bill Wichman, Bruce Beckley Rich Hart, Jack Gleason, Anne Krantz, Alternates: Lee Gilman, Paul Indeglia, Rob Clemens, Wes Robinson

Guest George May, georgemay@comcast.net Chair of both the Souhegan Watershed Assn, a local volunteer organization, <http://www.souheganriver.org/>, and the Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (LAC) that is authorized by the DES under the: The New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP) was established in 1988 with the passage of [RSA 483](#) to protect certain rivers, called [Designated Rivers](#), for their outstanding natural and cultural resources. Designated Rivers Program: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/index.htm> The Souhegan is comprised of 3 members from the 6 towns along the river (Amherst has only one member presently – Rich). The LAC meets monthly and is charged with reviewing all development within the ¼ mile wide distance from river's edge and send recommendations back to DES. George is concerned about the flat meandering stretch of the river in Amherst that is prone to bank erosion. Worried land owners have tried to protect their land by hard armoring the banks with stone that simply pushes the force of the water elsewhere along the bank and is not a permanent or sustainable option. Because the river banks moves in Amherst he is concerned about any attempt to locate a gas pipeline under it. Discussion: Bruce – How can ACC get copies of the LAC comments to DES – George or Rich can send. John mentioned recreation opportunities and George complimented ACC for the two nice canoe ports, but noted that they need to be monitored for poison ivy – Lee is doing this now. Rich explained how successful and memorable the salmon releases have been from the student's point of view.

Paul Indeglia representing the revived Amherst Stormwater Committee presented a power point high-lighting the stormwater aspects of the Souhegan River; a Class B river that is impaired. He included a chart of 12 management concerns regarding water quality – dissolved O₂ is key to indicating the health of a river. DES has issued a Draft of new MS4 regulations for MA and the same ones are expected for NH later this year. (Review attachment of the power point sent to members on 3/15).

Craig Fraley, Amherst Rec Director Craig who began in June told about his educational background In outdoor education and summer camps which is why he was attracted to the position in Amherst. He is looking for way to partner with ACC to increase outdoor programming and to better utilize P MEC. The P MEC summer camp will be full day which he hopes will attract more families with working parents. The April vacation camp was full day and sold out. He also started a weekly hiking group at P MEC, but the snowshoeing hikes were defeated by cold weather. He is working with Souhegan High School to get them to hold classes at P MEC; The Outing Club has started to use the center and trails. Discussion of X-country skiing there – need a way to cut tracks. Anne is planning a Big Tree adventure to measure the biggest tupelo trees in the swamps for the NH Big Tree list. Members of the measuring team will meet at P MEC at 10:00 AM on Thurs. March 19, with snowshoes to try to find them. ACC member are invited to join. John asked Craig to develop a list of programs and activities that ACC could co-sponsor with The Rec Dept. Lee asked the capacity of the building -60 -75; a projector is available and there is wireless.

Craig also mentioned that the Library is moving their fine rock collection to PMEC – it is in display cases and is a valuable and unique educational collection.

Camp Young Judea, 9 Camp Road Map 8, Lot 59 Non-Residential site Plan, by Keach-Nordstrom Associates, Bedford, NH

Preliminary plans presented by Jeff Merritt, with Camp Director Ken Kornreich (kkcyj@aol.com) and Board Member Paul Finger (pfingerpfai.net).

The camp was established in 1940 with tents for housing, on 170 acres, 37 acres in Amherst. The camp uses 12- 15 acres. It operates for 7 weeks with 350 kids between ages 8 – 15.

The plan is to upgrade the girl's 9 cabins which necessitates moving the 8 tennis courts. Because the property has both 350' frontage on Baboosic Lake and Baboosic Brook runs along the edge of the property, there are numerous setbacks and buffers. They are applying NH Alteration of Terrain Permit, and the required Wetlands permits. They must comply with NH Stormwater regs. Discussion of tennis court layout that intrudes into wetlands – other configurations? They are considering other layouts.

John asked if compensatory wetlands or other accommodation could be made. More discussion.

They are scheduled to present to the Planning Board in April and will return to ACC with the final plans.

Environmental Impact Sub- Committee (Paul, Bruce, Rob) complete their report for the Selectmen's Pipeline Task Force –

Paul forwarded a copy of the 30 page report to ACC members earlier in the day. Because members had insufficient time to review it, Paul moved that the Commission meet Wed. March 19 7:00 PM Town Hall to review and approve the draft proposal, Rob 2nd, no further discussion. Approved.

Excluding the alarming Ponemah Bog, and the Souhegan River crossings, the sub-committee found no other long-term environmental impacts with the route presented. The BOS Pipeline Task force is meeting on March 23, members can send questions to John or Colleen.

Land Acquisition- Bruce

The 6.3 acre Wheeler lot at 2 Lynch farm Rd that abuts Pond Parish Forest is available for about \$70,000 minus about \$20,000 in liens and back taxes that the Town will abate = \$50,000.

Bruce move and Bill 2nd that ACC recommend to the BOS the purchase of Lot 6-23 for about \$50,000.

Discussion – how much wet and how much is buildable? Presently there is a house and some sheds that will be removed (possible Fire Dept training site) – a buildable lot. Bill called the vote – **approved**.

Lot Line consolidation – John

John reported that he learned that discontinued internal lot lines can be removed so they no longer show on GIS maps, at no cost, by filling out a ' lot consolidation form.' He would like to test the process on our Pulpit Farm property where many old house lot lines still show on maps. Questions about whether deeds need to be redone, do Selectmen need to approve? TBD All agreed that he should try this process on this site.

Summer Intern – John

A summer college intern is available to ACC for environmental project for 5 weeks in early summer.

Members quickly thought of projects:

- Caesars Brook – clean-up work after the timber harvest – trails and wildlife habitat improvements
- This summer’s harvest at Haseltine – help with cleanup and habitat management
- Invasive management projects at multiple sites including the canoe ports, especially the forsythia & jungle of invasives at the Rt122 port.
- Cut the autumn olive on the Bragdon ski hill
- Help on trails where there is no Steward
- Bi-centennial Trail Bog Bridge near Austin Rd that never got done

Round Table

Anne – is planning a garlic mustard educational event and pull on the Pine Fields common land along Corduroy Rd. This has entailed getting permission of the Board of Directors of the Condos who want proof of insurance. ACC as a sponsor means that town insurance covers the volunteers engaged in the ACC project. Anne moved that ACC sponsor the event, 2nd and approved.

It is tentatively scheduled for Sat May 2 at 10:00 at the site. Ellen Snyder from UNH extension will present the educational session at the beginning, followed by the weed pulling. Hopefully Girl Scouts can be recruited for this bending-over work! These horrible invasive biannual weeds, new to this region, will be pulled before they flower and go to seed. This way they can be bagged and taken to the transfer station.

Lee – mentioned 3 training opportunities:

3/16/15 Urban soil fertility workshop	Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth
3/17/15 NH Arborists Association annual conference	Grappone Center, Concord
3/18/15 NH Landscape Association annual conference	New Hampshire Technical Institute, Concord

Paul – has learned that the land on RT 122 at the Hollis border where the summer antique auto shows were held is for sale and he would like permission to approach the owner to learn more about his intents.

ACC - OK

Minutes from joint meeting in Feb. – approved

Treasurer – Bill Land \$335,307.70 (Still need to correct for the amount paid out for the Hagen closing)

No other business

Meeting adjourned at 10:20

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Krantz, secretary