

## **ACC Nov 11 -11 - 2015 - Minutes**

### **DRAFT 3**

#### **Meeting called to order by Chair John Harvey- 7:04**

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

**Minutes** - Paul moved that the minutes be approved as sent - passed

#### **Treasurer - Paul, Paul will send report - As of 12/8/15:**

TOWN BUDGET - \$2,033.50

GIFT ACCOUNT - \$12,540.48

LAND ACCOUNT - \$337,129.75

The remaining Town budget is \$2,033.50; however, funds for the demolition of the Wheeler property need to be transferred from the Land Account (\$8,640.00) to cover the work, which would leave the Town budget at \$6,243.50 and the Land Account at \$328,489.75.

**PB Rich** discussed the Wenzel property subdivision to create 2 new lots accessed by a steep 16 foot wide driveway. PB was concerned that it would be too narrow to permit vehicles to pass, although the bridge width was considered OK. Applicant was asked to prepare an alternate plan to present at the Dec. meeting.

Rich mentioned that the Bragdon property on the north side of Rt 101 is under contract by the LaBelle winery for expansion; they are considering a B & B, restaurant, distillery and will present 'conceptual' plans at the Jan PB meeting.

**Interdepartmental review 9 Fieldstone Drive** - to convert an existing multi-building residential site into a condominium. No ACC comments.

**Jack - Meadows** Concern about the wood ash getting applied this fall from Anthony Casella Organics, a supplier of ash from Concord, NH - they still have a few weeks.

#### **Jeanne & Arnie Rosenblatt, 8 Hubbard Road, (603)673-3739, request to cut timber on ACC Bate land -**

to enhance their hilltop view. They would like to cut down about 40 trees that are at least 50 feet tall on the back corner of this ACC land. It would be a long tunnel directed toward the southern view. Discussion: Lee - this would be similar to a wildlife opening. Bruce - need to look at such requests case-by-case. Rich - this land is not a part of our Forest Management Plan and maybe there is a better site for a wildlife opening. Paul - would like to look at site and others supported this suggestion, and to ask Charlie Koch to come too. Wes asked about the value of the timber - mostly white pine, beech. Access through the Rosenblatt lot is small meaning small equipment will be used. Rob - when? Dec before snow. Lee will arrange the site visit for next week.

#### **Topics:**

#### **Goals and Strategies for ACC Member suggestions:**

**John** - Is interested in making Amherst a walking community and to facilitate this activity wants to concentrate on neighborhood trails. To achieve, he sees possibilities in developing more trails on currently unused ACC properties such as the Cur-

rier land behind Fairway Drive, the consolidation of the Joppa and Hagar/Flume lots, and the changing of Class 6 roads to class B trails as proposed for a Warrant Article. Lee cautioned that he attended a meeting that pointed out there are downsides when doing this.

**Rich** noted that this is already happening at Lindabury. Discussion of need for more comprehensive plan for Lindabury to align ACC and the 'Friend's' goals. Some ideas – plant heirloom trees, host a summer Rec. Dept. concert there, figure out a plan for the failing shed (restoring is no longer an option – too costly) Discussion of this problem – issues with burning, how to compost, etc. Also problem of what to do about the old brush piles of apple wood laced with poison ivy.

**Paul** – concerned that ACC members are working individually with lack of collaboration and consultation. He would like to see more sub-committees of three working on projects. Jack agreed noting that we need multiple people involved that understand projects, especially if a member leaves ACC. Paul – other goals: would like to see 'Protected River' signs installed at the Souhegan bridges as a means to expand programs to enhance water quality and public education about Amherst's water resources. He proposed that ACC buy these signs for \$1,400. Paul also mentioned storm water initiatives funded by future grant proposals.

**Anne** – Would like increase partnership programming with the Rec. Dept. to provide more environmental programs at P MEC, such as inviting UNH Extension educators to use the site at no fee.

**Jack** – wants to get ACC fields that are not in production into some sort of agricultural use – upper Bragdon is close. After years of stone picking with Mike, they are close to being able to mow those fields. Jack also hopes to get both Joppa fields into crop production now they are both nearly free of trees and stones, as well as encouraging Bedford to keep their adjacent Joppa field open and potentially into production.

**Rob - Wildlife Program** The Souhegan River corridor is one of our highest ranked habitats and he would like to see us expand our influence in the area

**Bruce** – asked how committed we are to expanding Open Space – need to fight for it. Discussion – this relates to the Warrant Article agenda topic forthcoming – need to work with Town leadership to get support before going to the voters. Power-point presentation to Selectmen and Ways & Means? NHACC help?

Other goals ????

**ACC Budget** (Has been \$8,000 since 2007)

**Get Paul's list - See Attachments**

## **TOPICS:**

### **ACC Warrant Article and Amendments for the 2016 Town Meeting**

#### **100% of Current Use (LUCT)**

Rich moved that ACC submit a Warrant Article to request that the 50 % of the Current Use Tax

(LUCT) that now goes to the Town general fund, should be in the future deposited in the ACC Conservation Land Fund. 2<sup>nd</sup>, no further discussion. Passed unanimously

**Paul - update on the Ed & Tracey Dziadek ( [ED.DZIADEK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ED.DZIADEK@GMAIL.COM)) & ACC boundary survey**

He contacted DPW with the following questions:

If parking is moved will there be adequate site distance – Yes. Is there any town protocols for such surveys, No but the town will pay for pins. The boundary pin survey is estimated at \$1,600. Other legal considerations? No. Bruce estimates that the cost of moving the parking lot would be about \$3,000.

We have 3 alternatives:

1. Land swap as proposed by Bill – see map he sent a map
2. Move parking lot
3. Interest owners in signing a Trail Agreement that would absolve them from any liability for use of their land/parking lot by the public

Rob will follow up with the owner to discuss options, with Jim O'Mara.

**K & M - Paul** – the new pipeline route through Amherst seems to be accepted by K & M.

They now have approached Amherst about wetlands mitigation projects as required by law. They want 'shovel-ready' suggestions. Discussion of many ideas – don't necessarily need to be in the Pennichuck brook watershed. Paul, Anne and Rob met with Colleen and Bruce Berry to discuss. Paul is researching further (DES & CEI) specific projects. This group will do a site visit to the Industrial Zone on Friday Nov 13 at noon.

Rich said that K & M is expected to officially file with FIRC on Nov 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Hemlock situation in Haseltine - Lee**

He walked the land with Charlie and learned that the hemlock trees are being attacked by three pests: HWA, elongated hemlock scale and a new tip blight on the understory seedlings: *Sirococcus tsugae*. So they are revising the management plan to include salvage of hemlock trees. There are about 8 acres of hemlock in Haseltine and they are considering cutting a 2 acre habitat opening. Charlie is ready to start this next week. Discussion of landings – may need 2. Also the need to close the property while this work is ongoing. Paul moved and Jack 2<sup>nd</sup> that ACC authorize Charlie to go ahead with his plan and that the trails be closed to bikers and hikers while the large logging equipment is in there. Passed.

Lee has an additional check for \$5,682.71 for the recent Haseltine logging. He will send out Charlie's report: *ACC Stumpage Report - Attached*

**Hunting signs** – Rob is still working on this – he couldn't find any old signs. They will simply say that it is ***Hunting Season***, but no dates for which weapon or animal etc.

### **Bidding Process Review**

Rob – Summarized that the bidding process for the Wheeler property demolition was not done well and that in the future a more collaborative and open

process that considers all laws and implications are considered and that all members understand what decisions are being made regarding awarding the winning bid. Paul suggested a general review of other ACC bidding processes.

### **Round Table**

**Bruce** - did research on Volunteer workers Liability according to RSA 508:17-I(a):

#### **508:17 Volunteers; Nonprofit Organizations; Liability Limited. -**

*1. Any person who is a volunteer of a nonprofit organization or government entity shall be immune from civil liability in any action brought on the basis of any act or omission resulting in damage or injury to any person if:*

*(a) The nonprofit organization or government entity has a record indicating that the person claiming to be a volunteer is a volunteer for such organization or entity; and*

*(b) The volunteer was acting in good faith and within the scope of his official functions and duties with the organization; and*

*(c) The damage or injury was not caused by willful, wanton, or grossly negligent misconduct by the volunteer.*

Bruce moved that the ACC here by recognizes, as required by RSA 508:17-i(a), the following individuals and groups as volunteers, as defined in RSA 508:V(c), assisting the ACC in the Commission's land and trail management efforts:

ACC Trail Stewards:

- a. Lists to be added
- b. And such individuals as may from time to time volunteer to be stewards Community service organizations; including but not limited to:
  - a. Souhegan High School Service Students or individuals
  - b. B. BSA and GSA units."

Paul added that the new names of volunteers would be read in the regular minutes - Passed.

Bruce showed a photo of the new picnic table installed at Greater Woods.

**Wheeler** property - Jim Sickler finished the demolition at and the lawn has been reseeded.

No Hunting signs have been posted by neighbor Robin Nahill. Now need to discuss the future of the property. The Heritage commission is researching the area.

**Pond Parish** - letters have been sent to 8 abutters whose houses are on PP Road and who back up to the eastern shore of the PPTF beaver ponds to request that a new loop trail around beaver ponds be permitted, along the edge of the wetland. Only one reply so far. Neighbors are concerned about proliferating of parking areas and nighttime activities. Bruce moved that parking areas be closed 30 minutes after sundown, Jack 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion: Rich - people use Lindabury after dark to watch fireworks and stars. Full moon

hikes are another popular night activity. Wes suggested 'No Overnight Parking.'

Paul suggested we table until we can do more research – all concurred.  
Bruce announced he will continue to work on trails.

**Paul- Reminders** The Tracking representative from NH Fish & Game wants to come to ACC to explain how the trapping program works in NH. Trappers must notify CCs prior to the season, and a new notification is waiting for ACC reply from last year's trapper. At season's end he must follow-up with a report of his catch.

**Rob** – reported that he encountered mountain bikers from Merrimack who found their way to Pond Parish. He informed them that there is no biking allowed in Pond Parish But since there is no sign, it confusing for bikers - need to review ACC policy about biking trails on ACC properties.

**John** – showed photos of the Caesar's Brook parking after ½ day grading work by the Rec Dept. Kaboda – nice flat parking lot now. Trails are coming along as will be open someday....

Question about the Fraser Trail easement – a Tom Blinn asked since the trail crosses his property. Need to call him about names of other owners of land with the trail crossing.

No other business, meeting adjourned at 10:35

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Krantz, secretary