

**Town of Amherst
Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday April 12, 2017**

Attendance: D. D'Angelo- Chair, L. Gilman, R. Hart, P. Lyon- Selectman Representative, J. Hardner (Alt), B. Widmer (Alt) and Frank Montesanto (Alt) Staff: CDD G. Leedy, Planner S. Corson

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:33pm and stated Jared will vote for John and Bill will vote for Rob.

Topics

- 6:30 pm – Bruce Berry, DPW- Reconstruction of Nathan Lord Rd

B. Berry along with E. Hahn presented the project as follows:

Project Narrative

The Town of Amherst Department of Public Works is proposing to reconstruct the full length of Nathan Lord Road ("the Road"). The Road was built in the 1970's and has deteriorated beyond the point of simply overlaying the paved surface. The DPW Director suspects saturation of the underlying gravels as well as poor quality of the select gravels and is, therefore, proposing full depth reconstruction. The scope of work generally consists of removing the pavement and the underlying select gravels to a depth 22-inches below the proposed finished grade and reconstructing it with 18- inches of State specification gravel and 4-inches of new pavement. Underdrains will be added where necessary. The proposed finished grade matches existing pavement grade within a few inches.

Reconstruction of the Road also involves closing the drainage cross section from the intersection of the Road and Boylston Terrace all the way to the intersection of the Road and Route 122 (Boston Post Road). Today, the entire length has an open drainage section. The high point in the Road is just beyond the intersection with Boylston Terrace. The water within the roadside swales settles near the intersection with Boston Post Road and flows to Beaver Brook through an existing 24-inch corrugated metal pipe. The Town of Amherst enjoys an easement over Tax Map 3; Lot 60-3, which is 20-feet in width and allows the drainage outfall from the Road to Beaver Brook. Beaver Brook is a fourth order stream subject to Shoreland Protection. Roadway reconstruction involves replacing the existing CMP with HDPEP. The pipe is upsized from a 24-inch pipe to a 36-inch pipe to increase the hydraulic capacity according to our storm water analysis. For the most part, the pipe remains in its existing location. However, the outlet is shifted approximately 5-feet downstream from its current discharge point. Today, the pipe outlets at the exact location of a beaver dam. The dam is approximately 18-inches to 2-feet in height and causes the existing drainage line to surcharge even during periods of no flow. By moving the discharge downstream of the beaver dam, the pipe is clear and able to freely discharge.

Work in the Wetland jurisdiction is limited to removing the existing pipe and installing a new pipe and outlet headwall. We have estimated a 2-foot width for the impact, along with the entire length of the easement area (20-feet).

Jared asked if there is any other option other than draining into Beaver Brook. No, that is the only option and that's what's been done historically.

Rich asked if this is an intermittent stream.

B. Berry said there's lots of water in that area. There is a perennial stream up there that has different requirements and will stay in its current state. The goal is to reduce the free water that is saturating the road. They will give the water a place to go by creating piping direction without letting it find its own route.

Daryl was concerned about the quality of water going into Beaver Brook and then the Souhegan River. She wanted to talk to George May from Souhegan watershed association but he couldn't get to the meeting. Daryl said they monitor the Souhegan River water quality all summer mostly for e coli. She used to test the Beaver Brook outflow. George wanted to test just below Beaver Brook because the numbers are higher there. She asked when they expect the construction work to start. Late May/ early June. Daryl and Bruce decided they should further discuss the testing at another time to make sure they are not duplicating work.

W. Robertson arrived at this time.

E. Hahn said the flow may be stronger for a month or so, but then the top soil levels will dry a bit and become less spongy and the flow will level out to be the same as it is now.

J. Hardner asked how the filtration works.

B. Berry said the same way a septic system works- but in reverse. Hydro carbons stay on the top. It doesn't flush out in a high flow time- it stays trapped. It will be maintained annually.

J. Hardner asked if the wetland on the property at the corner is affected by changing the flow in that area. They don't think it will be.

J. Hardner moved to approve the proposal and to have Daryl sign it. W. Robertson seconded. All in favor with B. Widmer abstaining.

Frank arrived at this time and the Chair stated he will vote for Vick Bennison.

- 7:00 pm - William Drescher, Town Attorney

J. Hardner moved to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:2(b) with Town Counsel Bill Drescher. R. Hart seconded.

Roll call vote: W. Robertson-yes, F. Montesanto-yes, B. Widmer-yes, J. Hardner-yes, L. Gilman-yes, R. Hart-yes, D. D'Angelo-yes

At 8:00pm the Commission reentered public session. G. Leedy left the meeting at this time.

Administrative Reports

Chair comments

At 8:04pm Daryl introduced new members Bill Widmer (Alt) and Wendy Rannenberg (Representative from the Recreation Commission).

Minutes- March 22nd

The ACC reviewed the minutes of March 22nd.

W. Robertson moved to approve the minutes of March 22nd as submitted. R. Hart seconded.

All in favor with J. Hardner, F. Montesanto and B. Widmer abstaining.

Finance Report

None

Planning Board Update- Rich

The case they were supposed to hear was tabled. Nothing to report.

Management Areas

Water Resources- Rob

None

Meadows, Forests, Invasives- Lee

Forests: Jared said he, Lee and John met with a wildlife ecologist and county forester from UNH and talked strategy for forest management and did a site walk at Joppa Hill. He has asked them to come to the next ACC meeting on April 26th to give a presentation and answer questions. He put material online for the ACC to review prior to the presentation. One topic of interest is that we clear ½ acre clearings which is good for wildlife but that generic approach might not be best. We may not be accomplishing what we think we are.

Lee said through the presentation we should get a better understanding of how the management practices we've been using impact wildlife and how we can alter what we do to impact wildlife. Then we will make strategies and set goals.

Daryl asked if the ACC will learn enough from the presentation to make intelligent decisions with managing individual properties. Jared mentioned the ACC has a forester, a county forester and the UNH resources to help us. The ACC just needs to get up to speed with the concepts.

Jared said meadows management is directly related. The meadows management is directly affected by managing the forests. It's been 20 years since the management plan was written and the forester is on board with developing this process.

Meadows: Lee said contracts are getting set. No changes are planned for the meadows other than ramping up.

Invasives: Lee has the permit drafted he's just waiting for a list of Town-owned buildings from the office so he can include them all in the permit.

Daryl asked about the tree that was dangerous. Lee and Wes cut off the top portion and pulled it back in the opposite direction.

Trails

- Sub-committee update

Wes updated the ACC on everything the sub-committee has done. The 1st meeting was in November. They talked about their mission and objectives of creating the trails manual and public outreach. They met in January and started planning the hike of the month, social media and coordination with the Rec Dept. They added to the ACC website. John began work on the trail manual and they distributed lots of information to the group – the Milford trail manual and Amherst information that will inform the Amherst trail manual.

They met in March and honed some plans for trail of the month info to get into the newspapers. They looked at the trails manual in further detail. Jared set them up with a dropbox area. Ordinances may come out of the discussions they are having.

Daryl asked to have the ACC updated regularly.

142 • Stewards' Spring Fling

143 This will be held April 22nd which is the same day as the sustainability fair. Commission members should
144 be at both places.

145 Fair: 10am-4pm Wilton/Lyndeborough high school

146 Stewards fling: 12-2pm at Joe English

147
148 Education/ Outreach

149 • Wilton Sustainability Fair

150 Rich showed examples of the posters he will display at the fair and the commission made some edits to
151 the information. He is looking into putting the posters up at the library after the event is over.

152
153 Daryl mentioned the ACC will have a booth on Fourth of July. The commission brainstormed that there
154 should be trail information for people to scan into their phones at the booth.

155
156 Land/Easements

157 Daryl discussed the Sherburne Lot across the river from Simeon Wilson Rd. It's after the athletic field
158 and runs to the river. It's 15 acres. The Rec Dept has asked if the ACC minds cutting back some of the
159 trees that are encroaching on the playing field and cut additional trees and use the area parking.

160 Lee said there are invasives throughout that area.

161 The trees are encroaching on the softball field. In addition, they would like to have some parking there
162 because there is no parking on Simeon Wilson Rd. Lee has had discussions before and noticed that trees
163 are encroaching many ball fields and tree maintenance is needed.

164
165 The commission reviewed the maps and photos and discussed the pros and cons of allowing a parking
166 lot on that property.

167
168 To do list:

169 -Walk the site and find the property boundaries and establish which trees are in question.

170 -Get legal advice so this does not become precedence.

171
172 **Round Table**

173 Wes spoke to Aaron Bagshaw- the coach of the high school bike racing team and the team is interested
174 in a community service project to help with the trails. The commission discussed the ACC email system
175 which didn't seem successful in this instance.

176 **W. Robertson moved to make the ACC alias email distribute to all of the commissioners. J. Hardner**
177 **seconded. All in favor**

178
179 J. Hardner suggested taking the team for a day of work and that will either be the end of it or if it works
180 out well and they want to do more the ACC can discuss another project.

181
182 Frank reported they did a lot of pruning at the orchard over the last two weeks and they will be working
183 on the Old Mail Road Trail next weekend.

184
185 Daryl shared that Zack Anton received his Eagle Scout and the ACC is invited to the ceremony. The
186 invitation was shown.

187
188 Lee will be directing a mushroom cultivation hands- on training session. The sign- up is coming out very
189 soon.

190 The commission discussed a logging project and also a run that is coming up soon on the trails and what
191 needs to occur to make everything go smoothly.
192
193 Jared mentioned the action plan that's coming out of the strategy. He printed copies and handed them
194 out because commissioners have action items assigned with dates attached. He reminded them that this
195 information is in the dropbox.
196
197 Rich added to what Frank said that the upper orchard has been completely pruned. They will be working
198 on the lower orchard tomorrow or Friday.
199
200 Daryl talked to Craig the Recreation Director about doing a 'paddle' down the river sponsored by the
201 ACC and Rec Dept. She wondered if Rich could lead one and talk about the wildlife/ habitat.
202 The commission discussed having a town-wide event going down the river and supplying kayaks and a
203 shuttle.
204
205 Simon attended a land conference and he will update the commission over the next few weeks about
206 the presentations.
207
208 Wes mentioned the trail sub- committee is short a person. The commission discussed if Frank should
209 even be on that committee at this point or if it should be a five-member group.
210
211 **F. Montesanto moved to adjourn at 9:47pm. W. Robertson seconded. All in favor**
212
213 Respectfully submitted,
214 Jessica Marchant