

Amherst Conservation Commission Minutes

Amherst Town Hall –April 8, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by John Harvey

Attendance: John Harvey, Rich Hart, Bruce Beckley, Bill Wichman (by Skype), Alternates Lee Gilman voting for Anne Krantz, Rob Clemens voting for Jack Gleason, and Paul Indeglia voting for Jim Bowen.

John DeAngelo also attended meeting.

Minutes:

- Minutes from March 11 regular meeting approved.
- Minutes from March 18 special meeting approved.
- Minutes from March 23 public hearing approved.

Treasurer – Bill

- Land: \$336,288.40
(with \$5,401 uncharged so far, and \$11,294.39 from timber pending deposit)
- Gift: 6,808.27
- Budget: 2,352.34

Approved

Planning Board – Rich

Plans

- Camp Young Judea plan review rescheduled to next month.
- Intent to Cut received for Camp Young Judea for 4/1/15-3/31/2016.
- Two Intent to Cut notices were received after the fact for the prior year covering Henry Tupai and Bragdon Family Trust (2014-2015)

Motions

Rob moved that Paul get funding not to exceed \$55 to attend a source water protection meeting. Second by Rich. Passed unanimously.

Paul moved to approve up to \$1,000 for additional signage from the town account.n
Second by Rob.

Project Progress:

Pipeline Environmental Impact Assessment Committee: Reported on multiple meetings and other efforts. An objective report was submitted as sufficient unless facts change such as a realignment. No formal post-report requests have been received.

Discussion of the ACC report included concerns over misrepresentations by media. It was mentioned that the ACC should go beyond a letter to the editor by contacting the editor directly.

Public Comments

- Kristen McCool said she was an impacted abutter. She asked: “How could Kinder Morgan development have any ‘positive’ impact?” It was explained that Kinder Morgan would be required to provide direct offsets to compensate/mitigate for the pipelines construction encroaching on sensitive areas.
- Ken Berry lives on Patricia Lane and spoke about direct effects by way of the aquifer impacts.
- Alice Berry on Patricia Lane and provided comments.
- David Beech said he is not directly impacted and provided comments.
- Brian Dillon said he was a direct abutter and provided comments.
- Fiona Coleman said she is not directly impacted and provided comments.
- Donna Reilly said she is not directly impacted and provided comments.
- Wendy ____ said she was a direct abutter and provided comments.
- Tim _____ provided comments.

The general concerns expressed by the public related to a statement in the ACC report regarding limited long term impacts and possible benefits to the town verses land protection. Another comment related to introducing potential remedial benefits in the body of the report before referencing them in the report’s conclusions.

Summer Intern Projects: An intern will be available and projects are being sought that aid conservation management.

Amherstcc.org Website Update: There was discussion regarding adding KMZ files to our website’s download library.

Acquisition Discussion:

Opportunities for land acquisition were discussed. About 14 properties at various stages of opportunity are being tracked.

Announcements:

A correspondence was received to avoid use of the Lakey Estate between Pond Parish and B&M Land.

John proposed a trail access from Fairway Drive cul-de-sac to path in woods across Cemetery Fields.

Round Table

Rob – Mentioned that New England Cottontail habitat programs are being conducted.

Rich – Pruning workshop to be held at Lyndaberry Orchard on Saturday. Some of the tree have already been pruned with more brush piled than in past years.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Gilman, Alternate

Addendum