

ACC Meeting – December 9, 2015
Draft(2) Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair, John Harvey at 7:09 PM

Attendance: John Harvey, Rob Clemens, Lee Gilman, Rich Hart, Jack Gleason, Bruce Beckley, Paul Indeglia

Chairman’s Comments: John underscored the importance of refining and justifying the Commission’s 2016 budget request, for presentation to the BOS on Monday night, December 14th.

Minutes: The minutes for the November 12th meeting were approved as final.

Treasurer’s Report: Paul did not have final numbers for the monthly account update. These will be provided when received from the bank.

UPDATE (12-15-15):

Town Account: (-\$6,523.50), although \$8,640.00 is anticipated to be moved from the Land Account to cover the costs of the Wheeler demolition and \$500.00 is anticipated to be moved from the Gift Account to cover the cost of Tas Vamos’ internship stipend, bringing the virtual balance to \$2,616.50. The Line Item breakdown of that balance is:

Land Management	\$1,621.50
Meadows	\$ 205.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 690.00
Postage	\$ 100.00

Gift Account: \$12,542.08, although \$500.00 is anticipated to be moved to the Town Account to cover the cost of Tas Vamos’ internship stipend, bringing the virtual balance to \$12,042.08.

Land Account: \$342,818.01, although \$8,640.00 is anticipated to be moved from this account to cover the costs of the Wheeler demolition, bringing the virtual balance to \$334,178.01.

Paul expressed concern that our accounts may not be earning as much interest as possible, particularly the Land Account. He will investigate higher return alternatives.

Planning Board: Rich reported that the Planning Board had further reviewed and approved the Wenzel subdivision proposal, including a slightly wider access

roadway, counter to the recommendation of the ACC, deciding safety concerns outweighed potential wetland impacts.

The Planning Board is expecting a presentation in January from LaBelle Winery on their proposed developments for the Bragdon Farm property, to include a B&B, vineyards, distillery, and possible additional residential development. Concerns include access to Rte 101 and location of proposed housing.

Meadow Management: Jack reported that 40 soil samples were collected from 10 ACC Meadows and submitted to UNH to obtain baseline fertility levels on all meadows and to guide soil amendments in the future. Additional work is being proposed for upper Bragdon, including installation of a gate to limit vehicular access to the field. Jack has identified a usable gate on south Bragdon, but will need to have supporting posts installed.

Selected cut request for Bate property: Arnie and Jeannie Rosenblatt (8 Hubbard Rd) reiterated their request to conduct selected cutting of trees on ACC's Bate tract, which abuts their property to the south. John Harvey summarized the Bate property forest assessment conducted by ACC forester, Charlie Koch, noting that the property is mostly inaccessible to commercial logging equipment due to the presence of the Perkins residence to the east. Discussion focused on benefits and impacts from the proposed tree cut on the Bate property versus the view enhancement benefit to the abutting private property. Concern for the precedence of such a request was also voiced. A motion was made to allow the requested cut to proceed. There were two yeas, four nays, and one abstention. The request was denied.

Hemlock Salvage & Haseltine Timber Harvest Update: Lee reported that Charlie Koch had prepared a summary of hemlock presence in ACC forests and had recommended salvaging hemlock timber on selected properties in advance of hemlock failure due to threats from Hemlock Scale and Woolly Adelgid infestation. Discussion focused on the need for more detailed surveys of forest properties by Charlie and the associated schedule and priority for these surveys. A motion was made to "authorize Charlie Koch to update the forest management plan for the Joe English Reservation with particular emphasis on the hemlock survey, and paid for out of the Land Account." The motion was approved. Other ACC forests will be considered for updates following completion of the Joe English survey. Lee provide a summary of the current Haseltine forestry activity.

Kinder-Morgan Pipeline Update: Paul reported that FERC has accepted the K-M filing for the proposed NED pipeline, and that wetland mitigation discussions have been ongoing. Presently, we are focusing on parcels and/or potential projects in the Witches Brook/Pennichuck watershed where the proposed pipeline will have the largest footprint and impact. Pennichuck Waterwork's consultant, CEI, is presently evaluating possible parcels for mitigation projects. K-M has identified approximately 0.67 acres of permanent wetland impacts from the proposed pipeline, thus far.

Pennichuck Parcels: Paul reported that Pennichuck is seeking to divest three properties that they own in Amherst. ACC may be interested in further evaluating these parcels which total approximately 20 acres. Paul will report more details and progress at our next meeting.

2016 Budget Discussion: John Harvey presented a draft slide presentation intended for the ACC 2016 budget discussion at the Dec, 14, BOS meeting, seeking feedback from the ACC to improve the presentation. Commentary was offered on the draft slides. Recommendations were made to make the budget request more project specific with hard cost requirements. John will edit the slide presentation and meet with BOS on Dec, 14.

Round Table: John reported that the parking lot at Bragdon Farm adjacent to 101 was re-graded, and the tunnel cleared in preparation for winter use.

Jack voiced concerns on recent efforts by ACC representatives and Friends of the Orchard to clear brush piles and make repairs at Lindabury Orchard. He was particularly concerned with possible poison ivy exposure for volunteers, particularly students and nail hazards for farm machinery and farm animal, especially cattle, associated with renovation efforts to the shed. Jack would like to see responsibilities and decision making made more clear for ACC sponsored projects in the future, and broader Commission participation/buy-in.

Paul requested that time be found at a future ACC meeting for Bruce to make his education/outreach presentation on ACC properties.

Rob asked if an ACC volunteer effort was needed to repair the previously reported damage to the Kingpost Bridge in the Joe English Reservation. Discussion focused on getting an assessment, then organizing the necessary short-term repair. [This was accomplished by ACC on Saturday Dec, 12.]

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Clemens