Town of Amherst
Conservation Commission Meeting
Sunday September 25, 2016

Attendance: R. Clemens - Chair, R. Hart, L. Gilman, V. Bennison, J. Harvey, B. Beckley – Alt (voting from D. D'Angelo), J. Hardner-Alt, F. Montesanto-Alt (voting for W. Robertson)

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Administrative Reports

Minutes

- Amendments to meeting minutes from 9-14-16 should include:
  - 3rd bullet under Meadows/Forests/Invasives should read: "Logging has been completed at Haseltine, but there remains one load of logs to be picked up by the logger. It is located at the lower entrance on Austin Road."
  - 2nd bullet under Infrastructure should read: "Frank cut metal…."
- J. Harvey moved to accept minutes with revisions, L.Gilman seconded, minutes are accepted as amended (amendments noted and to be sent to Jessica Marchant by J. Hardner)

Finance Report – J. Harvey

- John will provide a detailed report at the next meeting, some recent developments include:
  - ACC received final check for Haseltine stumpage; and,
  - ACC received an invoice for lumber to build new bridge at Joe English.

Planning Board Update – R. Clemens

- No update -- Planning Board has not met since last ACC meeting

Special Topics

Budget Planning

- J. Harvey explained method for preparing FY17-18 budget.
- Draft line item estimates presented to J. Harvey, to be refined and finalized at next meeting.

October 1 Workday

- L. Gilman confirms there will be a stone cleanup on Oct 1 at 10 AM at upper Bradgon.

Management Areas

Water Resources

- Paul Indeglia and R. Clemens will meet next week to discuss a proposed Amherst hydrology study and possible funding sources. R. Clemens expects to provide ACC with a fuller progress update at the next meeting.

Meadows

- L.Gilman says he's looking into access to lower Joppa Hill from Horace Greeley by shoring up bridge.

Infrastructure

- No update

Trails

- J. Hardner presented a plan to rehabilitate and re-reroute trails at Haseltine (see attached ppt).
- Bill Stoughton, former Haseltine Steward, property neighbor, and frequent user of the area (hiker) spoke in favor of J. Hardner's trail proposal.
- R. Clemens requested that under the new design, consideration be given for connections that will allow users to bail out of long segments if they desire. J. Hardner pointed out a location where this could be accommodated using existing trail segments as spurs to other trails.
- B. Beckley stated a personal preference to avoid overly twisty trail designs for new re-routes, and cautioned to avoid blazing where it is visible from other trails to avoid users cutting between trails. He also stated that there should be latitude to modify the plan as needed to accommodate unexpected site-level issues during trail work.
- **L. Gilman motioned to approve J. Hardner's proposed plan to rehabilitate and re-route trails at Haseltine, and J.Harvey seconded. Vote: all in favor.**

Trail Infrastructure

- Bill Stoughton, president of Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity, described the recent volunteer initiative of Habitat for Humanity to build a new bridge at Joe English.
- ACC Commissioners expressed their gratitude for an excellent job completed.

Easements and Properties

- L. Gilman visited and confirms encroachment of private driveway onto ACC property at 81 Broadway. Resolution in progress by D. D'Angelo.
- Boat also found abandoned on property. D. D'Angelo will contact Jim O'Mara regarding disposal.

Management Planning

- J. Harvey reviewed with the Commission the purpose of an Amherst Conservation Plan.
- R. Clemens will take on gathering information regarding current wildlife monitoring in Amherst.

Education and Outreach

- No updates

Roundtable

- No additional topics raised for discussion

V. Bennison moved to adjourn at 9:50 PM and L. Gilman seconded. Vote: All in favor.