

ACC Minutes
May 11, 2016, Amherst Town Hall

Called to order by Chairman John Harvey at 7:04 p.m.

Attendance: John Harvey, Jack Gleason, Paul Indeglia, Rich Hart, Rob Clemens, Wes Robertson, Daryl D'Angelo, Peter Lyon

Chairman's Comments:

- Organizational: Selectmen approved all of our appointments. The lineup is:
 - Rob, John and Daryl full member three year terms (2019), Daryl appointed as a full member due to her previous years of membership
 - Bruce as an alternate at his request, three year term
 - Gary Cole and Jack requested not to be reappointed, Jack will continue serving as Meadow Steward until his four projects are completed, under an ACC meadow manager to be named. John asked he provide a Meadow management plan for succession planning.
 - Wendy Taggart dropped out for personal reasons.
 - Officer elections next meeting.
- Three public first hearings accomplished; Devine land donation, Joshua's Park, OHRV ordinance. Devine and OHRV no concerns, I read your recommendations on Joshua's Park and they will comply. Second hearings in two weeks. Wes will fill in the OHRV details.
- AmherstNH.gov addresses for all not approved due to non-departmental status and cost.
- Selectmen dissolved the Stormwater Committee and will reconstitute it in the future if needed. DPW has the lead.
- I expect to provide a first quarter quarterly review of ACC plans and accomplishments to the selectmen soon.
- Agenda adjustment: We will go into a non-public session as the last item, after the Round Table.

Treasurer: Paul reported the following amounts in the ACC accounts:

- Conservation - \$476,734.68
- Gift - \$13,520.27
- Town Budget - \$809.43

Planning Board: Rich noted that the BOS was holding hearings on proposed acceptance of the Joshua's Park and Devine land property gifts.

Plans & Permits: John noted that an “intent to cut” permit request was received but was unsure whether the ACC needed to comment or approve.

Meadow Management: Jack reported that he and Graham (FOTO) had walked the Lindabury Orchard property and identified two problem areas associated with the proposed clean-up of the lower orchard. Specifically, there are two “island” areas that need to be cleaned up, one in the vicinity of an oak tree to be preserved, another where stones have been dumped near basswood or linden trees that will need to be cleaned up. It was recommended that a site visit be scheduled in order to determine next steps.

Project Plan Updates: Managers responsible for specific projects reported as follows:

- King Post Bridge Design – Souhegan High team is finalizing
- Survey of Old Mail Road – John will consider lining up a surveyor
- A-H-L Trail Development – Wes is evaluating an alternative trail from the Austin Road Landing
- Trail Update – John is updating trails on NRPC GIS
- Haseltine Hemlock Salvage – John reported that this harvest is not yet complete
- Canopy & Easels – Rich is evaluating canopies and easels for use at the 4th of July and other ACC educational events. Considering one 12X12 canopy and three tripod-type easels. Funding to be identified.
- PMEC Education Programs – Hemlock threat workshops completed. Trail building workshops scheduled for June 11th.
- Upper Bragdon Cleanup – Jack is concerned about all the stones that have been piled up on the property and is recommending that interested parties be invited to come remove them. Peter Lyon will check on the legality of making these stones available to interested parties.

OHRV Ordinance Revision: Wes noted that a public hearing was held at the 5/9 BOS meeting. There was no discussion or opposition. One more hearing will be held on 5/23. West also reported that he attended a class on RTP grant writing to support AHL trail needs.

Finance Discussion: Paul reported that he had met with various town administrative staff to determine what options existed for ACC fund accounts that might provide better return on these public funds and investment. He received email guidance from the Town Treasurer to hold the funds “as is” for the near term and then consider moving the

Conservation Fund monies to Primary Bank in the future when their CD investment vehicles become available.

A motion was made and seconded to “follow the recommendation of the Town Treasurer and move the monies in the Conservation Fund to a new account at Primary Bank in Bedford as soon as possible, and then invest these funds in an appropriate certificate of deposit instrument to achieve maximum yield but be accessible without penalty”.

The motion was approved with one objection.

Naming of AHL and Flume/Pulpit/Joppa Areas - Daryl will draft a description/discussion on the ACC's interest in renaming these areas.

Bowen Memorial: Gail Bowen would like to create a memorial to former ACC member, Jim Bowen at P MEC. John will query her interest in placing a bench and/or picture at P MEC as part of this memorial effort.

Round Table:

- Wes recommended placing a bike rack at Town Hall
- Daryl noted that we have approximately 20 trail stewards. Also that she is seeking to consolidate all ACC lumber at the DPW facility. Finally, trail infrastructure inventories are about 50% complete.
- John noted that the Amherst Citizen is seeking someone to contribute ACC news to the Citizen, as Bruce will be concentrating his efforts on general conservation topics. John also noted that the Recreation Department is taking over the school property on Baboosic Lake Road and installing a Frisbee golf course and a pump track for bikes.
- Jack would like to see historic write-ups on how all ACC properties were acquired. He requested access to available remaining ACC budget funds (2016) to complete meadow management projects. A motion was made, seconded and approved to make available up to \$690 for this purpose. He also requested that any pruning/chain sawing in Lindabury Orchard be postponed until after the bluebird nesting season (late July).
- Rich reported that Lindabury Orchard mowing was to commence shortly.
- Peter Lyon reported that NH DES had met with the BOS regarding PFOA contamination in groundwater at the former TCI facility on 101A. Well water sampling is being expanded to a half mile radius.

A roll call vote to go into non-public session was called with all commissioners present saying "Aye".

The ACC voted to seal the minutes until June 8th. The ACC also voted to go back into public session. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rob Clemens