

## ACC Minutes

**March 9, 2016, Approved April 13, 2016**

Acting Chair Rob Called the meeting to order at 7:00, Amherst Town Hall

**Attendance:** Rob, Bruce, Rich, Anne, Jack, Lee; alternates Anne & Wes voting for John and Paul

**Chair Comments:** Rob thanked all who helped market Warrant Article #31, the Hazen Land purchase that passed overwhelmingly: 1878 Yes, 984 No.

**Minutes:** Feb minutes approved as sent by Lee

**Treasurer:** Paul absent due to illness, report deferred

**PB Rich** – Approved a tree cut on Scenic Rd Col Wilkins. Discussed a building renovation on 101A with abutters/neighbors. Rich announced that Colleen Mailloux submitted her resignation as Planning Director to take a position in Londonderry – all were dismayed.

**Meadow Management** – Jack reported on his long meeting and discussion with UNH Extension Educator George Hamilton about the status of each ACC field and meadow. George generally agreed with the management plan that Jack is pursuing. We have a larger budget in the coming year. Bruce asked whether Lot 3 on Grater Rd. would be included in the future. Presently, neighbor Mark is doing some volunteer brush hogging, but there is some erosion on the slope. Jack will do a soil test this fall to assess needs – he is also going to test Bertha Rogers.

**Girl Scout Cadets #22171 Presentation** – leader Stephanie Grund, 672-6866  
[swgrund@comcast.net](mailto:swgrund@comcast.net).

The girls presented a proposal to replace a failing bridge that crosses Betty's Brook on the Bicentennial Trail, with professional guidance from Jeff Mazur, NE building and Remodeling. Bruce mentioned that ACC has some lumber if they don't have enough. Discussion of whether it would support bikes and horses. Rob asked for a written proposal with specs. He also asked for an AC volunteer to oversee the project – Wes will do this.

**Joe English Hemlock Report** – Lee

Charlie sent out an update of the management plan for Joe English to reflect the hemlock pest situation. (HWA-EHS Joe English – 2016) He marked a section along the Hemlock Trail as 'severe'. Discussion of the plunging value of hemlock lumber and whether we would be able to get any \$\$\$\$. ACC directed Lee to discuss further with Charlie and to plan to go ahead with this harvest ASAP – soonest would probably be August.

**Lindabury Orchard – Proposed FOTO Charter and 2016 Plan** - Graham

Hankey, GRAHAM.HANKEY@saic.com and Frank Montesanto, [fmontesanto@me.com](mailto:fmontesanto@me.com). Concerns about continuing poor communications between the two organizations.

Rob, Rich and Lee visited the orchard a few weeks ago –to get a better idea of what the situation is in the lower orchard area.

Comments and questions: Lee is not clear whether it is being managed as a recreation park, or for conservation uses. As Meadow Manager Jack has monitored actions there over the years, and he is content with the results of much hard work in the Upper Orchard. He suggests that if additional trees are added in this area, that disease resistant flowering crabapples be planted for their esthetics and wildlife value. Jack has a different vision for the lower area that had thirty apple trees removed in Oct. 2008 by he and Mike Riccitelli. This area has been brush hogged annually. He sees this area as potentially very expensive to manage, and problematic because of lack of access for machinery.

Continuing it as an orchard presents many difficulties: deer, disease, pruning and poison ivy management. He spoke with Kevin Pomeroy about cropping it instead, eliminating the above list of problems. Kevin would be only interested if there are no physical obstacles – the refurbished shed would be one. (a project undertaken by FOTO without ACC approval). Jack will try to get Kevin to visit the site soon.

Graham – FOTO is concerned with both near term issues – the mess of debris, and a long range sustainable plan. Long discussion of what to do with the old apple trees; Jack – there are between 50 -60 mature poison ivy laden apple trees remaining in this part of the orchard. Apple trees are in bloom 10 days in the year and as with other agricultural crops have a limited practical life expectancy. He is of the opinion, all the apple trees in this area should be removed, leaving only two small islands of hardwood trees. The younger row of dwarf apple trees along the eastern edge could be saved and the hiking trail could be moved to pass through them. All agreed that the rampant poison ivy is the main problem, making the area totally unusable presently. Also agreed that the simplest way of dealing with the piles of debris is to push into the edge of the woods. Much more discussion....

All need to visit site to see what trees, some large oaks, to be left, and to determine whether clearing it entirely for crops is the answer. Moving the shed to the upper orchard was also suggested. Graham will discuss options further with the FOTO members. Another site visit will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

Rich reported that he has contacted Steve Gatcombe to conduct a pruning workshop March 19. He will do the workshop and 3 days of pruning for \$850. Discussion of what kind of pruning he has in mind – Jack and George Hamilton are concerned about this pruning leading to a flush of new growth in the future and the need for continued extensive pruning as a consequence. Who removes the brush?

Rich to get a more detailed description of the pruning plan. Since there is not time for ACC to approve this expense or work, Graham will see if FOTO is interested in sponsoring the pruner.

**Biking on ACC Trails – Workshop Group Report – Wes**

The sub-committee included Wes, Jack, Lee, Daryl, Craig Fraley and three members of the public. They reviewed the current biking use regs. on ACC lands and determined that our OHRV Ordinance written in 2012 does not really apply to human powered bikes. Also this Ordinance is not posted anywhere; web site, on trails, etc. No one knows it exists. Joe English is the only ACC property that has bike prohibition signs. The committee concluded that the vague references to bikes be taken out of the OHRV Ordinance and that bikes should be dealt with separately by the ACC. Anne pointed out that the OHRV Ordinance was written to give the Police the power to regulate vehicle use on our trails and provide the police with means for dealing with violations. Discussion of biking violations – rare. Looked at other town’s regulations: Milford has the best and most comprehensive regulations. Actions: discuss ramifications of change to OHRV with Police department. Examine each trail for appropriateness for biking use (they like the idea that biking is allowed unless posted as NO biking). Committee needs to suggest trails for biking and Commission needs to hike them. Need to educate users of trails about biking etiquette, including standard safety practices. The committee will continue to meet.

### **Round Table**

**Bruce** – submitted a list of his volunteer hours as suggested by Paul. Asked about articles submitted to the *Citizen* – confused about who was doing what with Warrant Article #31. Also the next steps now that the Article passed. Chris Wells will take the lead. Bruce asked if ACC would be signing the Grant Applications. He cautioned about the complexities of a trail from the Village to the schools – don’t oversell. Bruce is working with Will Ludt AHC, to look at historic sites on ACC lands.

**Anne** Is arranging a Trails Workshop presented by UNH Extension at PMEC on Sat June 11 that will be taught by expert Lew Shelley from Walpole NH. There is a cost for this all-day event and Anne requested \$150 to help defray the cost for ACC Trail Stewards and ACC members. Three Stewards have already signed up. The training will be noticed on the Stewardship Network web site so open to folks from all over New England, but limited to 18 -20 participants. Anne Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

**Lee** asked what he is to do with the copies of *Intent to Cut* Notifications that he gets from Gail Stout – keep for now. He announced Arborist and Landscaping meetings that he will be attending – contact him if interested.

**Rob** asked if we still felt the need for an extra meeting later in the month – NO.

Next meeting will be **April 13<sup>th</sup>**

No other business,

Meeting adjourned at 10:40,

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Krantz, secretary

Following the meeting Bruce submitted his resignation as a commissioner.

