

ACC Minutes DRAFT

April 13, 2016

Chair John Harvey Called the meeting to order at 7:04, Amherst Town Hall

Attendance: John, Rob, Paul, Rich, Anne, Jack, Lee; alternates Bruce, Anne & Wes,
Selectman Peter Lyon

Guests: Daryl D'Angelo, Wendy Taggart, Will Ludt, Richard O'Loughlin, 110 Spring Rd., and others who made presentations

Chair Comments – John welcomed our new Selectman representative Peter Lyon, who expects to be able to attend most meetings.

Minutes - Anne: March minutes approved as sent and corrected by members via email.

Treasurer - Paul

Reported that he was unable to get the Gift Account total from the Finance Dept.

Conservation **Land Account: \$469,072.46**

ACC Budget - until June 30): **\$1,817.07** (includes \$1,175.42 for land management)

PB - Rich Heard a 3 lot sub-division request for the Sherman Wolf property (4-32, 33) on Boston Post Rd. The property drops down into flood plain and difficult to get 3 lots. (Note –it backs up to Fairway Drive. ACC owns 4-34-23 & 4-35 – landlocked).

No Plans or Permits

Sally & Tom Wilkins request for a DES D & F Permit: Minimum Impact Expedited Agricultural use that requires Conservation Commission signature: "To provide a stable crossing for cattle and equipment to reduce and/or eliminate the current sedimentation and nutrient loading of the intermittent stream, associated wetland, and pond. The crossing will consist of an appropriately sized culvert, rock-lined auxiliary spillway, and gravel road lined with permanent fence to restrict access to the wetland area - all of which will provide access from the farmstead area to the pasture."

A Site visit by ACC members was Thurs., conducted on March 24 at 4:00: *the following ACC members met at the Wilkins Farm on Green Rd to view the site for their D & F proposal:*

Rob Clemens, Paul Indeglia, Jack Gleason, Lee Gilman, Rich Hart, Anne Krantz.

After viewing the current drainage situation in the animal pen, all were in agreement that the proposal would be an improvement and correct existing drainage issues and problems.

Anne Krantz, secretary

Paul moved that ACC approve the plan, 2nd and passed.

Jack – Meadows

Scott Fields – met with Kevin Pomeroy and he is going to convert one corn field to a hay field which is a better use in a flood plain.

Bragdon – Can't apply ash because the pH is too high so will use urea for Nitrogen and muriate of Potash for potassium.

Joppa - Bedford has no field management plan yet so it is not possible to coordinate with them for the fields that cross the town line, delaying the whole field improvement program.

Joppa South – Over the years ACC has successfully removed the young pines and stumps that were encroaching into the field. But there is a significant bittersweet problem that makes it impossible to mow – chokes the brush hog machine. Jack met with Jeff Taylor of vegetative Control to get an estimate for treating: about \$1,950 including the class VI road. Then the field would be ready for returning to crops – Jack's long term goal.

Upper Bragdon Front Fields – Jack and Mike have been working for years to clear stones and brush in hope of also returning this to hay. There are two large 'islands' of scrub trees, vines and stones that Jack would like to remove. It was suggested that we should meet there to look – Jack will arrange so we can get an estimate before year end.

TOPICS

Joe English Kingpost Bridge replacement design – Souhegan engineering students – Jim Callahan presented design ideas with Ivy and Thomas

A kingpost truss bridge resembling the present one, 3' 8" wide, 6' 8" tall with 30' span the max for this design. Cost estimate for materials \$900, plus concrete if needed. But a queen-post design would be stronger, and longer and wider.

John commended the students for their efforts and explained the partnership with Paul Schlotman the SHS teacher who found SHS graduates with architectural and civil engineering degrees who have been mentoring the students as they learn about bridge design.

Discussion: Jack asked about the decking material; have they compared TRECK with pressure treated. Rich suggested a roof might protect the deck, but too heavy. Rob asked about the Wichman family interest in the design - must it be replaced with a Kingpost design.

Selectman Lyon – very impressed with the power-point presentation.

Chris Wells - PLC Progress Report: As of April 13, 2016

1. PLC foundation requests pending for Hazen project:

Name	Request	Submitted
Samuel Hunt Foundation	\$20,000	March 15
Bertha Rogers Trust Fund	\$35,000	March 25
Preston Family Fund (NHCF)	\$15,000	March 25
Bean Foundation	\$25,000	April 1
Fields Pond Foundation	\$20,000	April 8
McIninch Foundation	\$20,000	April 12

We should be getting answers from the above in May/June.

2. Possible additional foundation requests for later this year are to Cox Family Fund (if invited) and OSI Community Forests Fund (if they have \$ and invite us)

Public Grants:

Aquatic Resources Mitigation (ARM) Fund – pre-app due April 30, full app. due Aug. 31. We will request somewhere between 200-300K

Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) – pre-app. due May 30, full app. due June 24. We will request somewhere between 200-300K

For both ARM and LCHIP, we will not get answers until late November/early Dec.

3. Other news:

First APLC/ACC public walk on the property will be June 25th

An Amherst family has agreed to host a cocktail reception for potential donors to the project on Sept. 18

Discussion about how to keep momentum going after the successful March vote

Rich volunteered to create a web site. Rob suggested a communications strategy – guest

Richard suggested Facebook & Paul mentioned crowd sourcing sites like “go Fund Me.”

Rob and Rich agreed to spearhead a Communications Sub-Committee.

Daryl emphasized the aquifer on the property and suggested a large scale fund-raising event.

Wes urged that non-ACC members be recruited work on fundraising efforts.

Lindabury Orchard Actions – Randy chapman, FOTO

John – time to nail down specific plans/actions for this spring

Randy, FOTO – they have about \$3,000. They want to clean up lower orchard by removing brush piles and most trees. Estimate from Jim Sickler for nearly \$5,000 so need additional funds from ACC. They want to be able to mow this spring to knock down the poison ivy.

John noted the ACC budget beginning July 1 has a line for \$1,300 for Lindabury that includes \$200 for poison ivy signs.

Jack explained that he would like to see this area self-sustaining and restored for agricultural use so the town would not have to continue to pay annually for mowing. He got an estimate from Scott Tiedemann to remove all trees in lower orchard \$3,500 and for using an excavator to shake off the dirt then to pile the brush and crush to turn into a compost site it would be \$4,625. He spoke with Carl Majewski, UNH Extension, about mowing the poison ivy – very concerned about using a rotary mower because of aerosol risk. Need signed waivers, no children, etc. Jack showed the site to Jeff Taylor, Vegetative Control who estimated \$2,160 to treat chemically. Kevin Pomeroy can't take on more hay fields for several years, Jack – need to decide whether a park or agriculture use for this section that is not really accessible from the road, as the lane crossed abutter's land. Randy – the neighbors who contributed to the fund to buy the property were imagining views.

John explained the town bidding requires 3 bids. Lee asked the annual cost of mowing this section - \$1,800 last year.

Jack moved that all the trees in the lower orchard be removed with the goal of returning this area to agriculture. No second.

Rob moved that most of the tree on the west side of the lower orchard area, plus selected trees on east side be removed. Wes 2nd. Discussion: Lee questioned whether ACC can sustain the mowing that is projected. Jack – this is asking town taxpayers to maintain this more remote area for a trail. Daryl asked about original funding and purchase of the land – bought as an orchard. Rich asked about more FOTO fundraising through their web site. Bruce suggested we be concerned with only one year at a time. John called the question: Yes - Wes, Rob, Lee, Rich, John. No – Jack. Next steps – mark the trees, write contractor specs and get 3 bids.

Joe English Challenge Race, Sun May 1 – Randy

Requesting that all of JE be closed for the day; they will set up the water stations and do the flagging on Sat. Discussion: John asked that ACC logo be included in publicity.

Wes will notify the press about the closing. Anne asked when signs will be put at the JE kiosks to alert trail users about the closing.....(*who is doing this and when??*)

Permission grants for this one-day closing – hopefully the trail can be reopened by mid-afternoon.

Paul had to leave – Wes voting for Paul

Bike Trails – use of existing ACC trail by bikers. Wes recapped the meetings and progress reviewing the present biking trail use with respect to the town OHRV Ordinance that now limits bike use to Bicentennial, B & M and Haseltine, although there is no signage notifying bikers of this. Presently violations can incur a \$1,000 fine. The sub-committee recommends that the town remove reference to bikes in the OHRV Ordinance and move to a system of posting trails where bikes are not permitted. Now only Joe English is posted NO Biking. Wes moved to submit to the Selectmen for approval the proposed revision of the OHRV Ordinance “to remove reference to no bikes use, unless otherwise posted”. Rob 2nd. Discussion: Rich asked about pedestrian safety. Trail signage will include information about biking etiquette. John asked about packs of bikes or too many – not likely. John requested that the biker groups pay for the needed signs about biking rules. Vote – all in favor – Passed.

Round Table

Lee - While the ACC has had success managing invasive pests on town conservation land, many invasive pests spread primarily along rights-of-ways that include roadways and riparian corridors. In the pursuit of environmental conservation, I would like to extend the ACC’s past efforts in this area to include a new initiative that incorporates other stake holders (i.e. public works, recreation, DOT, adjacent land owners, etc.) and other lands (road rights-of-ways, water rights-of-ways, utility rights-of-ways, transfer station, adjacent private lands, etc.)

The town and our environment can benefit greatly if we begin to counter this common method of transmission.

John – will be participating in the interviewing process for Colleen’s replacement

Rob – summarized the excellent coyote program at the library – is no longer in favor of hunting them.

Other???

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Krantz, secretary

