

February 28, 2024

APPROVED

In attendance: Rob Clemens, Mark Bender, Steve Lutz, Lee Gilman, Rich Hart (alternate)

Administrative:

1. Chair Comments

Rob Clemens opened the meeting at 7:00pm. He noted that the next meeting will be March 13th and he would like the Commission to discuss Clean Up Day plans at that time.

Rich Hart sat for Jared Hardner.

Special Topics & Presentations

None at this time.

Other Business

- **Budget approval for supervision (Charlie Koch) of forest regeneration research by Antioch University and UNH Cooperative Extension**

Rob Clemens explained that the proposal is to expend an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for Charlie Koch's time guiding and overseeing this project. The project includes research by a student at Antioch University to see whether or how various Commission forestry projects have worked in terms of improving forest diversity. This is an important project to inform the Commission regarding how to best move forward with forestry projects.

Rob Clemens moved to expend an amount not to exceed \$2,000 from the Land Account to fund Charlie Koch's time associated with this student at Antioch University's research project. Seconded by Steve Lutz.

Discussion:

In response to a question from Rich Hart, Rob Clemens stated that he believes it would be reasonable to request a presentation and/or report from this project at its completion.

Vote: 5-0-0; motion approved.

- **Bertha Rogers integrated vegetation management**

Rob Clemens explained that this item first came before the Commission in 2022. Lee Gilman explained that this item was not acted on that winter but was approved. Rob Clemens stated that Vegetation Control Services, VCS, is able to start the first phase of this project at this time. He asked if abutter notification has been completed for the first phase. Lee Gilman stated that there

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are not clear guidelines for defining abutters and there are not many residences nearby this area. The primary homestead to this area has been alerted.

There was discussion regarding how VCS came to be the Town's vendor for this work. It was noted that there are basically no other vendors that are willing to do the work requested by the Town.

Rob Clemens moved to reapprove the mechanical phase 1 for the Bertha Rogers property, not to exceed \$4,000 for VCS from the Land Account. Seconded by Lee Gilman.

Vote: 5-0-0; motion approved.

- **Ash tree treatment at PMEC**

Rob Clemens explained that Lee Gilman previously requested time to consider other treatments and/or time periods for the proposed treatment of the ash tree at PMEC.

Lee Gilman stated that Bartlett Tree submitted a revised proposal regarding the scope and timing of work. The proposed treatment has efficacy for two years. This tree is located between the building and the pond. Rob Clemens noted that it is supposedly the largest ash tree in Hillsborough County.

Rob Clemens moved to approve the Bartlett Tree Services' proposal to treat the PMEC ash tree for \$390 from the Invasives budget line. Seconded by Steve Lutz.

Vote: 5-0-0; motion approved.

Rich Hart noted that pruning is proposed in Lindabury Orchard the first weekend in April. This will occur in the afternoons of both weekend days. Steve Lutz stated that he would inform the trail stewards.

Rob Clemens explained that there will be a vernal pool workshop on April 13th at Buck Meadow.

Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II, (d)

- **Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.**

Rob Clemens moved to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II, (d) for the Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community, at 7:23pm. Seconded by Mark Bender.

Roll Call Vote: Clemens – aye; Bender – aye; Lutz – aye; Gilman – aye; Hart – aye; 5-0-0; motion approved.

TOWN OF AMHERST
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No motions were made, and no actions were taken.

Rob Clemens moved to exit Non-Public Session. Seconded by Mark Bender.

**Roll Call Vote: Clemens – aye; Bender – aye; Lutz – aye; Gilman – aye; Hart – aye;
5-0-0; motion approved.**

Rob Clemens moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mark Bender.

Vote: 5-0-0; motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristan Patenaude