

ACC Minutes

June 8, 2016, Amherst Town Hall

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

Attendance: John Harvey, Rich Hart, Rob Clemens, Daryl D'Angelo, Lee Gilman, Bruce Beckley

Turtle Crossing Signs: SHS sophomore, Harrison Mazur, with support from teacher Jenny Deenik, presented his science project proposal to enhance the Blanding's Turtle (a NH endangered species) population in Amherst. He proposed to post signs along selected roadways warning motorists of turtles crossing. Because Stump Pond is a known habitat for these turtles, Craftsman Lane was recommended for these signs. A motion was made by Bruce and seconded by Daryl to "spend up to \$300 to post two turtle (or amphibian) crossing signs on Craftsman Lane." The motion was approved. Harrison will research appropriate signs to be purchased by ACC and installed with cooperation and assistance from the Town DPW.

Storybook Trail: Bailey Burton, Girl Scout with Troop 22171, presented a proposal to establish a "Storybook Trail" at PMEC based on the book "Around the Pond, Who's Been Here?" by Lindsay Barrett George. The troop's project would consist of 19-20 laminated signs placed on four-foot posts depicting pictures and text from the book and installed along a 1500 foot loop trail in PMEC. Carrier Lumber would provide the posts and remaining materials and labor would be provided by the Girl Scout troop, with support from the Recreation Department. The project would be completed this summer. Daryl noted that the Highland Trail may be partially re-routed as part of a bog bridge repair and that the Storybook project would have to consider this route change. After further discussion, Rob proposed and Lee seconded a motion to "permit Bailey Burton and Troop 22171 to install a 'Storybook Trail' as described, along the Brook/Highland/Pine loop trail in PMEC". The motion was approved and the project is to be coordinated with Daryl.

Chairman's Comment: John noted that Paul Indeglia had submitted his resignation from the ACC to the BOS effective June 6th. John also noted that election of ACC officers would occur later in the agenda.

Minutes: The April meeting minutes, prepared by Anne Krantz, and the May meeting minutes, prepared by Rob Clemens, were approved.

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

- Conservation - \$488,067.79

- Gift - \$13,521.93
- Town Budget - \$2,334.43

Planning Board: Rich reported that the Planning Board approved a proposed subdivision by the Sherman Wolf Trust, creating two house lots on Boston Post Road. There was also discussion of a proposal to convert a property on Hickory Drive from apartments to condominiums.

Plans & Permits: John noted that the Dredge and Fill permit for the Wilkins property, previously approved by the ACC, was formally filed.

Meadow Management: Lee Gilman is taking over as Meadow Manager, but Jack Gleason will continue as Meadow Steward for another year to finish up meadow projects at Lindabury Orchard, Bragdon Farm, Joppa Hill and the Scott parcel.

Regarding Lindabury Orchard, there are several “islands” that need to be cleaned up as part of the overall poison ivy eradication and meadow management project. Jack has proposed eliminating the oak and linden trees in these islands. A site walk was proposed for Tuesday, June 14th to review these areas of concern. Lee will coordinate.

Project Plan Updates:

1. Warming shed at Smith property likely delayed a few years. Gravel for parking area to be pursued with Recreation Department and possible ACC financial support.
2. Not discussed
3. American chestnut tree experiment at Upper Bragdon unsuccessful. Discussed obtaining additional saplings from American Chestnut Project for planting in different location(s).
4. Trail building workshop scheduled for June 11th at P MEC.
5. Hazen land acquisition dead. Need to consider a town-wide hydrology study to evaluate aquifer protection needs.
6. Hammond Farm Easement delayed until 2017.
7. Bruce will purchase conservation manuals from NHACC and SPNHF for new commissioners or others in need.
8. No new update on Nahill/Wheeler homestead historic research.
9. Not discussed
10. Not discussed
11. Not discussed
12. The king post bridge design is proceeding slowly due to engineering registration and insurance-related questions.
13. Bridge replacement project requires an experienced construction manager to supervise work.
14. Not discussed

15. Canoe landing replacement and repair project needs a supervisor, crew, tools and materials. A motion was approved to “appropriate up to \$200 for purchase of replacement materials for the Boston Post Road canoe port repair project.” John will supervise.
16. A bid request is being prepared by John for surveying the corners of Old Mail Road. To be completed by end of summer.
22. Lot consolidation is in progress.
25. AHL timber harvest check received.
26. Haseltine timber harvest almost finished.
27. Hemlock harvest in Joe English to be initiated in late summer. Lee will review
and update the Forest Management Plans with Charlie Koch.
28. Ongoing invasives control planned for fall. Lee is evaluating strategic targeting of
invasives outbreaks (along streams and road ROWs.)
30. Souhegan River signage has been delayed.
31. Lindabury clearing budgets need to be reviewed and agreed.
32. Poison ivy signs need to be posted at Lindabury Orchard.
33. Canopy and easels have been ordered for Fourth of July exhibit.

Naming of AHL, Flume, Pulpit, Joppa Areas: Daryl will circulate her proposed approach for this renaming effort to ACC for review.

Election of Officers: The following officer positions were nominated and elected to serve for FY 16/17 term.

Chairman:	Daryl D’Angelo
Vice Chairman:	Rob Clemens
Treasurer:	John Harvey
Clerk:	Anne Krantz

Role assignments will be reviewed and finalized at the July meeting.

Fourth of July Preparation: Rob will coordinate with other ACC commissioners to plan and support this year’s ACC presence at Amherst’s 4th of July celebration.

Round Table:

- Lee asked what we want to do with “intent to cut” notices. It was agreed we would review only those for properties that abut ACC lands. Lee noted that John Nute, Hillsborough County Forester, had retired in May and that this position will not be filled for a while.
- John noted that the Alice Townes and Great Meadow properties are getting a lot of use, but that parking should be encouraged at Wilkins School. John also noted that Zach Anton has extended

the boardwalk at Great Meadow as part of his Eagle Scout project.

- Rob sought confirmation from ACC for any necessary tree removal at the Fells conservation easements, where safety or potential property damage may be an issue. This was agreed consistent with the easement language. Rob also discussed the need for improvements to the Pond Parish Trail system to avoid further damage by hikers and bikers in wet areas.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rob Clemens