

## **ACC January 14, 2015 - Minutes**

### **Meeting called to order by Chair John Harvey 7:05**

**Attendance:** John Harvey, Bill Wichman, Rich Hart, Jack Gleason, Anne Krantz, Alternates: Lee Gilman, Paul Indeglia, Rob Clemens, Wes Robinson

**Chair Announcements:** John circulated the letter he wrote on behalf of the Bedford CC supporting their application for a \$40,000 grant to improve trails at Pulpit Rock, some that connect to Amherst trails.

**John** suggested that because of many guests we begin with their topics:

### **Wilkins Easements Trail Agreement – Sally Wilkins & John**

John projected a map showing the two clusters of ACC land that abut the new Wilkins easements, a northern cluster that includes Caesar's Brook, and the southern cluster that includes the Wilkins' lands in the Lyndeborough Rd area. Sally and John are writing an official Public/Private Trail Agreement according to our new Model Trail Agreement policy. Discussion of trail issues such as trash, vandalism and ATV's. John noted that once we post signs indicating what is permitted and prohibited on the trails and surrounding lands the Amherst Police can enforce the local ordinance. Sally and John will finalize the agreement and hope to have an official signing in the spring.

### **Joe English Challenge Race – George Bower**

The Amherst Land Trust is planning another fund-raising 25 k trail race on Sunday morning May 3, 2015 starting at Freestyle Farm and looping through Joe English. Because of so many more expected participants (250-300), the trails will be much more crowded this year. Dog walkers and family hiking groups pose a danger to the runners, so the ALT is seeking permission to close the Joe English trails for the event until 1:00 PM. Discussion: How much do the 2 seasonal events make - \$20,000 for both, and all ALT funds are used to protect land in Amherst. Rob asked about mud damage to trails in May – they send out a clean-up crew after to repair any damage. How will they notify the public of the trail closing? They will post signs on access roads.

Paul moved and Jack 2<sup>nd</sup> that the JE trails be closed on the morning of May 3. Discussion: Bill - we have never closed trails and he doesn't want to set a precedent. Rich asked about spectators – they have gathered at Freestyle Farm where it is more open in the past. Vote 4 Yes, 1 No.

### **Town Ice Skating Rink – Rick Katzenberg, Amherst Community Foundation**

Rick gave a brief history of this new non-profit organization to support "Life in Amherst" mostly through private fundraising to supplement recreation opportunities and outdoor activities. They held a bike rodeo and published a Youth Resources Poster. This winter they have worked with the Town Rec Dept to make a new 100' x 75' ice skating rink on the tennis courts at the Middle School. It is up and open thanks to an anonymous donor who provided start-up \$\$\$.

Anne moved and Rich 2<sup>nd</sup> that ACC donate \$1,000 from the Gift Account for this project

Discussion: Rob does not think this falls in the ACC charge, is on school property.

Vote: No 3, Yes 2

**Village Strategic Plan – Colleen Mailloux** - asked the questions from the 'Small Group Questionnaire' to get individual's input (no voted ACC positions). She will provide a summary to the BOS committee. Some new ideas mentioned were: regarding the questions about the Common - comments that the trees need better care. Rob asked if the Cemetery Fields playground has found a new home – that there is need for a centrally located playground. The Towne land across from Wilkins school was mentioned as an underutilized ACC property.

#### **Pipeline Update – John**

The BOS has asked ACC to be a liaison to the BOS Task Force led by John D'Angelo – a sounding board for Amherst residents. A pipeline is a natural resource and thus regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). To participate in their approval process the Town must have official 'standing' with FERC. There will be a town Warrant Article in March asking voters 'to permit intervention status.'

Discussion of possible environmental impacts both on ACC lands on all of Amherst's natural resources.

LICIP easement comes with restrictions – Bill is trying to contact Steve walker of LCHIP for further information. Paul noted that K&M will be required to file an Environmental Impact statement (EIS).

John asked Paul, Jack representing Audubon and Ponemah Bog, to form an environmental impact study committee – Rob volunteered also.

Guests; Amherst residents from Simeon Wilson drive Gary Hogan and Greg Coleman spoke about their concerns as property owners in the pipeline projected pathway. They are willing to help.

**Hager Gift Acknowledgement** – Deed has been recorded with ACC the manager of the 250 acres of land surrounding the Flume development. The Town Report will feature Jane Hager and this gift on the back cover. There was not enough \$\$ approved by ACC to cover the closing costs so Rich moved that ACC pay the additional cost of \$401.95 to complete legal work, Bill 2<sup>nd</sup>, Approved.

John presented ideas for a management strategy; Mark boundaries, Conduct Natural Resourced inventories – and tree inventory by Charlie Koch.

Discussion of uses of the land – should be consistent with ACC town wide practices and policies. To be continued.

#### **Regular business**

**Minutes** from Dec 10 approved as sent by Paul

**Treasurer** – Bill Land - \$335,296.86

Gift - no statement but about \$12,046 (update 1/9/15 - **\$12,047.31**)

Budget \$2,352.34 - to be spent before June 30

#### **Planning Board- Rich**

Approved the 30 unit Sr. Housing Development now called Connors Corner at the end of Smith Lane off Rt. 122 near Merrimack Rd. The PB denied this project because of it didn't figure buildable acres based on 'Net Tract Acres' – which excludes wetlands. The developers appealed to the ZBA because they were granted a special exception in 2012 & extended in 2013 for Sr. Housing as defined in the Town Ordinance, that doesn't use the net tract acre requirement for determining buildable acres. When the PB denied in the fall they returned to the ZBA for reaffirmation of their previous granted Special Exception for Sr Housing and won. Thus the PB approved the 30 unit project on 29 acres.

**Approved** the Stabile/Clark 16 unit workforce housing development on Rt 122.

**Plans & Permits** – Intent to cut for David Fraser on Brook Rd – 450,000 Board feet plus tons of chips, all species of trees to be cut.

DES Approval for the Town to repair culverts under the Mack Hill Bridge.

**Round Table**

Paul has invited Souhegan Local advisory committee (SoLAC) Chair George May to our March Meeting  
Paul is considering writing an abstract to submit and present at the NE Assn of Environmental Biologists (NEAEB) Conference March 18 to 20 in Burlington VT.

<http://www.epa.gov/region1/neaeb2015/index.html>

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Krantz, secretary