

# **Amherst Conservation Commission Minutes**

**February 9, 2014 - Town Hall**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:05 PM by John Harvey

**Attendance:** John Harvey, Jim Bowen, Bill Wichman, Rich Hart, Anne Krantz, Gary Cole, Alternates Bruce Beckley, Lee Gilman, Rob Clemens, Guest Will Ludt, AHC

**Chair comments** – John reported the Forest Society's campaign to acquire easement of the Wilkins parcels, although a success is a bit short of total funds needed.

**Minutes** - approved as sent

**Treasurer** – Bill

Land - \$223,796.74 Other ACC account totals not available Approved

**Planning Board** - Rich reported Warrant Articles preparation has been the focus

**Dredge & Fill/ Plans Jim**

Sara sent out two current projects for inter-department review: a request for a sign change at the vet on 101 and the proposed Wal-Mart replacement waste-water treatment system.

No ACC comments

## **Topics**

### **Voters Guide**

Wording for the 3 ACC warrant Articles 37, 38, & 39 for the March 11 voting

John will write a first draft and circulate to members for editing. Gary will work on wording for publicity for article 39. Bruce suggested that Letters to the editor in the *Citizen* are the more effective than articles.

### **Wildlife Habitat Plan** – getting organized - Rob

Introductory meeting on Feb 3, presented by Extension educators Amanda Stone and ????

Amanda sent **Draft Work Plan for Feb 2014**, that suggests 4 Activities:

1. Using the wildlife maps – suggestions for using them for public education
2. Identifying Priority wildlife Habitats in town
3. Public outreach
4. Do a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

Gary suggested that using Twitter we could track wildlife on private property by asking owners to report. Rich mentioned Face Book also; both would be ways of engaging the public.

Anne asked if we are clear about the reasons we are doing this project – to increase public interest in preservation of open space and remaining rural areas and bits of wilderness in Amherst. Bruce noted the doing a NRI is specified in the Conservation Commission RSA 36-A (see addendum).

Rob is will get the maps laminated so they can be displayed. Bill has soil maps and various wetlands maps. Rob will convene extra work sessions to implement the activities listed above.

### **Great Meadow boardwalk Expansion** – Rick Crocker

Rick sent a memo in his absence outlining the engineering work needed to obtain the needed DES wetlands permits. He will be asked to present the plan at the March 9 meeting.

**Trails in the Boutelle Forest** & north to the Roland Fraser Trail – Bill and Todd Guerdat  
Todd, Bill's neighbor, is willing to do the trail work on the Boutelle land. The abandoned Fraser trail crosses private property and we need to get the owners' permission to reestablish the trail. Need owners list to determine who knows them and who should contact them. John and Bill will try to get the lot numbers and owner's names. Rich will work on the presentation to the owners.

#### **Trailhead improvement – John**

John will have a list of new trailhead signs to purchase at the March meeting so we can authorize purchase.

#### **Walk Book – Bruce**

Bruce has 4 cartons of 250 books each that he wants to get out of his basement. Decided to pass them out on Voting Day, March 11 and at Town Hall. Rob will pick up 2 cartons from Bruce and Bill procure update sheets for the books we intend to hand out. Let's start with 100 sets.

#### **Heritage Sites – Bill & John**

Bill created a great map showing locations of Quarries, Cellar Holes and Old Mills. Other sites can be added as discovered – Eagle Rock was mentioned. Gary is working on redoing path to the Peabody Mill that is totally overgrown in summer. Discussion on possible use of QR codes at these sites.

#### **Lindabury Orchard** pruning demonstration – Rich

Rich is interested in having a professional orchardist demonstrate fruit tree pruning on a Sat in March. He will work with the Friends to make arrangements for this co-sponsored activity. There will be a modest charge to pay for the instructor's fee.

#### **Round Table**

**Rob** attended the recent "Green Eggs" breakfast in Concord – lots of politicians.

The program was "Climate Adaptations" Rob is interested in projected changes in habitats.

**Anne** – got 18 free "Fight the Bite" posters that describe how to protect against mosquito and tick bites to put up at trail head kiosks

**John** – was called about the Posted signs on the Currier land – he will check out.

**Bruce** –remembers an old EPA study the listed threatened species in Amherst – where is it?

Meeting adjourned,  
Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Krantz, secretary

#### **Section 36-A:2**

**36-A:2 Conservation Commission.** – A city or town which accepts the provisions of this chapter may establish a conservation commission, hereinafter called the commission, for the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources of said city or town. Such commission shall conduct researches into its local land and

water areas and shall seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its work. It shall keep an index of all open space and natural, aesthetic or ecological areas within the city or town, as the case may be, with the plan of obtaining information pertinent to proper utilization of such areas, including lands owned by the state or lands owned by a town or city. It shall keep an index of all marshlands, swamps and all other wet lands in a like manner, and may recommend to the city council or selectmen or to the department of resources and economic development a program for the protection, development or better utilization of all such areas. It shall keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and shall file an annual report which shall be printed in the annual town or municipal report. The commission may appoint such clerks and other employees or subcommittees as it may from time to time require.

**Source.** 1963, 168:1. 1973, 550:1, eff. Sept. 3, 1973.