

Amherst Conservation Commission

Minutes, Sept 14, 2014

Attendance: John Harvey, Jim Bowen, Bill Wichman, Rich Hart, Jack Gleason, Anne Krantz, Bruce Beckley Alternates: Lee Gilman, Rob Clemens, Paul Indeglia

Minutes: May & June taken by Rob have been approved and posted. Rich passed around his July minutes.

John welcomed Colleen Mailoux, Director of Community Development. Colleen clarified the process for the new "Conditional Use" permit – the application will still come before ACC for comments for the Planning Board who does appreciate ACC input.

Treasurer – Bill: Land account \$327,053.92 No other balances to follow:

ACC Gift	11821.30
Budget Remainder	7419.34

Planning Board – Rich

Senior Housing on Smith Lane - After the site visit by the PB visit (also Anne) there was lengthy discussion and the request for approval was postponed because of legal questions.

Several sub-division requests were approved including one at 122 and Ponemah Hill Rd. to divide into 2 lots. Rich noted that Peacock Brook, the unique cool trout stream, divides this property.

Plans and Permits – Jim reviewed several notifications from DES:

Alteration of Terrain Permit for Map 2-86-2 at 62 101 A, Resin Systems, Permit - granted
John Wood follow-up for 8-51-2 – inspection found the situation was 'naturally corrected'

Many DRA "Intent to Cut" forms received from our tax office:

1. 50 Lyndeborough to cut 11 acres out of 12
2. Austin Rd Lot 9-8-1 for 8 acres
3. Lyndeborough Rd. Wilkins property - to harvest 20 acres out of 49
4. 140 Mack Hill to cut two acres out six total
5. 18 School House Rd to cut 7 acres out of 8 1/2
6. 15 Holt Rd to cut 5 acres out of 7

Paul asked about timber harvest laws in NH – Regulated by state laws administered by various state agencies – Division of Forests and Lands, DES Wetlands Bureau - Dredge and Fill permits, shoreland laws
See ***Guide to NH Timber Harvesting Laws***, revised April 2104:

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/resource000253_rep274.pdf

Also ***Best Management Practices for Forestry, Protecting NH Water Quality***

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000248_Rep267.pdf

Topics:

Conditional Use Permit for William and Dorothy Larson, 37 Broadway on Baboosic Lake, for house restoration including the rebuilding of the retaining walls. Meridian presented the plans to ACC at the April meeting (see attachment for the minutes about this). DES has approved the replacement of the 64 foot wall with no change in location or configuration. (485-A:17)

Bill moved and Jim 2nd to approve the plans for the wall replacement – Unanimous Yes

Meadow Management - Jack

Bragdon - Jack worked with Mike while he mowed all the fields – Jack is the rock picker!

Currier – Jack was surprised to find that pear trees had been planted along the edge – Bruce explained that a Fairfield resident Don Mattise, 22 Fairway Drive, has been maintaining the Currier lot by removing downed trees and limbs, and mowing poison ivy free paths, etc. Also put a sign to tell walkers to stay on path to avoid the poison ivy.

Joppa Hill Fields – have responded to better care including the pasturing of the goats, mowing before milkweed goes to seed, etc. – coarse stemmed weeds and milkweed are gone improving the quality of the grasses and hay. The unmaintained Bedford portion of the one field is 90% coarse stemmed weeds.

Invasives on Meadow Edges – Jack reviewed the history of ACC invasive control on margins of fields; Upper Bragdon was an invasive jungle with bittersweet killing the trees – the cedar trees were totally covered and dying. In 2010 professional treatment of upper Bragdon by Vegetative Control Systems – Jeff Taylor, to kill Oriental Bittersweet, with a follow-up basal bark treatment the next year to knock out new sprouts. Very effective, but now after 3 years needs another treatment to kill new sprouts of bittersweet that are becoming robust. Discussed need for continuing maintenance – Jack and Lee estimate that another treatment for \$1,700 would reach deeper into the margins of the surrounding forest to better control the remaining vines & roots. Discussion. Anne moved, to allocate \$1,700 for a treatment this fall. 2nd and Approved. John asked Jack and Lee to prepare a meadow management budget including invasives control for ACC properties. Paul inquired if there are other methods of control – Lee explained that treatment is the most cost-effective and practical method – pulling bittersweet results in remaining bits of roots that sprout into even more new plants.

Rich asked about the tree pruning program for Lindabury Orchard – John asked him to prepare a plan and budget

Project Reports:

Mockernut hickory – a somewhat rare tree in NH grows on upper Bragdon. The idea of transplanting sprouts from under the upper Bragdon tree was suggested with Rob to investigate. He tried digging a sprout; took 45 min and in the end he didn't get the root tip – seedling died. Project idea abandoned. Folks can collect the nuts to plant when they are ripe this fall.

Hiker Signs – John

With the help of DPW 13 of the 14 signs were installed on posts – 1 left for Bragdon. Unfortunately 3 have been removed or vandalized: one stolen at Pond Parish and two found nearby. Discussed a more secure bolting system. John is planning 14 additional smaller signs for lesser trails.

Caesar's Brook Trails – John reported that Vick Bennison has done a great job flagging possible new trails utilizing the skidder trails from the logging. John passed out maps of the plan; perhaps too many trails? He suggested member go visit the site to see and follow the flagged possible trails - they have not been cleared. He will email the map. The trail head has been rough graded by DPW, and Lee suppressed the abundant poison ivy there. John would like to get an estimate for rough grading and fill for parking at entrance. The new easements on the nearby Wilkins land presents possibilities for an extended trail system on 150 acres for hiking and biking, possibly going up to Mont Vernon.

Canoe Port at Rt 122 – Bruce reported that the forsythia needs to be cut back another three feet, then Bruce will get Mike Riccitelli in to fill and grade the drive and lot. The overhanging vines need to be cut also.

Currier, Cemetery Fields, Hodgeman State Forest John created a map showing possible trail ideas to link the properties. He is going to the next Cemetery Trustees meeting on Thurs at 7:30 AM to discuss. Bruce explained that the high school track team regularly runs to Fairway/Currier lot and this would offer an extension.

Model Trail Agreement - John prepared a draft document to use with property owner to secure permission for pedestrian passage. He researched similar documents used by other NH towns. It is simply an agreement – not an easement or deed. Paul asked about the purpose and John explained that in NH unless posted, people are allowed to walk on private property, but persons are responsible for themselves if any injury issues. This new document will help explain /clarify this state policy to owners. He would appreciate prompt input and comments.

Trails GIS Working Group update – data has been collected and ready to send to NRPC

Round Table:

Rich – there will not be a Lindabury Cider Festival – few apples and it is a huge undertaking

Bill – Rick Crocker worked with Souhegan students to install nice bog bridging on the timber Trail – Thanks! A clarification for the July minutes – ACC Tree Farm properties are the forested lands included in Charlie Koch's Forest management Plan – not all ACC properties.

Bruce – refreshed blaze markings and did overhead pruning to make trails more passable for cross-country skiers. On the 4th of July, artist (Sherie Dowsett) offered to donate a painting if ACC needs a fundraising idea.

Bruce asked about the 2015 ACC Budget and whether there is consideration of Warrant Articles.

Rob (and Anne) attended the DES presentation at the Milford Town Hall on Sept 11 about the *Geomorphic Assessment of the Souhegan River*. He asked them for the specific data for the Amherst section, including results of field work. Rob reported vandalism to the outlook platforms in Pond Parish – railings removed to make into benches, etc. Discussion - Rob will report to the Police Dept.

Lee – treated invasives at Ceasars Brook and the poison ivy at both canoe ports and in the maintained areas of Lindabury.

Jack reported that when Mike was mowing at Lindabury he saw a mother and child in flip-flops walking through the dense poison ivy – they didn't know what poison ivy looks like.....

The trail sign points right to the poison ivy – Jack suggested that a wide path be mowed regularly as is being done by volunteers at the Currier lot that will provide a poison ivy free trail – discuss with Friends of Lindabury??? He also inquired about the old cement block building with Graham Hankey who didn't think the Friends want it; a liability – to discuss further.

John – After all read Rich's July minutes, with corrections noted, vote for approval as corrected – Yes

Meeting adjourned at 9:40

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Krantz, secretary

Attachment of excerpt of April Minutes – presentation by Tom Carr, Meridian for the Lasrons on Baboosic lake Rd.

Conditional Use Permit for the Larsons, 37 Broadway, Map 25, Lot 61, presented by Tom Carr, Meridian, to raze the existing waterfront house on Baboosic Lake and rebuild with a slightly larger footprint. The redevelopment requires:

1. DES Dredge & Fill permit to rebuild failing sea wall
2. Shorelands Protection Act permit for all disturbances to the ground surface; the existing house and proposed replacement house are within the 50' building set back line.
3. A ZBA variance for the increased size of the footprint, and the new deck that will encroach further into the shoreline setback.

This project comes under the Town's new Watershed/Wetlands zoning ordinance: **Section 4.11.**

The house has a standard well and was hooked up to a community septic several years ago.

This redevelopment will improve present water impact conditions:

1. Replace asphalt driveways with pervious drives
2. Will use pea stone under deck to reduce erosion from rain filtering through the decking
3. Roof gutters will discharge stormwater into a recharge basin area
4. The 12' wide lawn next to the beach will be replanted with shrubs to better infiltrate storm water. Lee suggested that a layer of low plants/groundcovers like native low-bush blueberries would be better than the bark mulch indicated

Tom noted that the present ratio of impervious surfaces is in the 28% range and will increase slightly to the 29% range.

No further comments at this time.