

Amherst Conservation Commission Minutes
May 11, 2014 – Amherst Town Hall – DRAFT

Meeting called to order at 7:04 by John Harvey

Attendance: John Harvey, Bill Wichman, Bruce Beckley, Gary Cole,
Alternates: Rob Clemens, Lee Gilman, Selectman Dwight Brew

Chair remarks: John Harvey asked Rob Clemens to vote for Anne Krantz and take the minutes. He asked Lee Gilman to vote for Rich Hart.

Minutes – approved as sent.

Treasurer - Bill

- Land Account - \$249,599.47
- Gift Account - \$11,581.01
- Budget - \$4939.00 (to year end June 30)

Treasurer's report was accepted

Plans and Permits – John Harvey noted that ACC had received three “intent to cut” notifications for the Stickney property, a Wilkins property and a property on Chestnut Hill Rd. ACC also received approval from DES on April 25th for its proposed timber harvest on the Haseltine property. A final application was filed for site improvements by SNHMC at 34 Manchester Road.

LCHIP Application – Bruce Beckley

Bruce proposed submitting an application for a conservation easement for Pestle Hill-Hammond Farm at 173 Mack Hill Rd. he described the State's current emphasis on preserving agricultural lands under the LCHIP program and is proposing that ACC Land Account funds be used as matching funds for this acquisition. The final application deadline is June 27th. An internal deadline to prepare the application was set for June 15th. The following motion was proposed:

“That the Amherst Conservation commission supports the application to the LCHIP Board for a grant of approximately 45% of the cost of a conservation easement over a portion of the former Hammond Farm plus hiking trail improvement costs. The balance of the project total cost, said cost estimated to be approximately \$310,000, to be taken from the Conservation Fund.”

The motion was approved.

Trail Safety Seminar – Rich Hart had previously suggested holding a trail safety seminar for the ACC Trail Stewards coordinated with EMS Director, Brian Gleason. Discussion focused on possible interest in CPR and First Aid training for stewards. Also discussed was EMS's general knowledge of the ACC trail system, and whether

any additional information on ACC trails should be made available to EMS. Rich Hart was authorized to follow up with Brian Gleason on possible safety training and related needs.

Round Table

Bruce noted that the Baboosic Lake Association (BLA) is the principal organization responsible for lake usage and that the ACC should consider joining the BLA. A motion to join was made, and was approved unanimously.

Bill offered to hand over remaining trail signage materials to anyone who would take them. Bruce agreed to take control of these temporarily. He also indicated availability of a chain saw w/back pack. John said he would check for interest.

Gary described a current Class 6 road running from 101 to Joppa Hill and questioned whether the abutting property owner(s) could be approached to approve clearing/chipping the right of way. The ACC agreed to discuss further at next month's meeting.

John noted that Will Ludt is setting up a cellar hole and foundation assessment training session on behalf of the Amherst Heritage Commission (AHC). NH DHR will present this session on Saturday June 21st from 9-2PM, starting at the Brick School, then moving to PMEC for lunch and a tour of the Peabody Mill site. John also reported that ACC would have a summer intern, Matthew Benoit of Eckerd College, starting in a week or so, and focusing on wildlife habitats associated with the recent Caesar's Brook timber harvest.

Rob noted recent vandalism of ACC trail signs on the Pond Parish trail system and will further assess whether the signs should be repaired or replaced. Rob also received guidance from ACC on approvals for removal of trees presenting a safety or property damage threat to homeowners within the Fells whose units either abut the Fells Conservation Easement or Pond Parish Town Forest.

Lee noted that he will be presenting an Invasive Plant Management workshop at the Bedford Village Commons on June 7th from 9-noon in conjunction with the Bedford Garden Club.

Dwight noted that the Baboosic Lake Association and the Baboosic Lake Rowing Club were trying to resolve concerns over potentially conflicting uses of Baboosic Lake by the rowing club.

Meeting adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,
Rob Clemens

