

**Town of Amherst  
Conservation Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, January 25, 2017**

**Attendance:** D. D'Angelo, J. Harvey, R. Clemens, W. Robertson, V. Bennison, P. Lyon, B. Beckley – Alt (voting for L. Gilman), J. Hardner-Alt (voting for R. Hart)

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Chair Comments**

- Next meeting rescheduled for Feb 9, 6 PM.
- At Feb 22 meeting, a guest (Chris Kane) will present on technical aspects of easements.
- Chair requests that Committees plan to present their progress on various obligations soon.
- Chair requests Commissioners seek more recruits to the Commission, especially somebody with expertise in wildlife issues.
- Gordon Leedy introduced Simon Corson, new Planner for Amherst, who can assist ACC with GIS among other things.

**Minutes**

- V. Bennison moved to approve minutes from Jan 11, 2017 with the following edit, and J. Harvey seconded.
  - The financial report needs to be appended to the minutes

**TOPICS**

Betty Arnold Forest Progress Update – W.Robertson

-W.Robertson presented a prodigious review of the work conducted to date at Betty Arnold (a copy of the presentation will be stored in the ACC Dropbox, available on request). His main points were that:

- The work at Betty Arnold is aligned with the Master Plan, recommendations from the Gale report, and the Amherst Forest Management Plan;
- The project proceeded according to ACC approved plans;
- No costs were incurred by the town because of major volunteer participation (~400 labor hours) and the donation of labor and materials by Amherst citizens, Currier Lumber, and Southern New Hampshire chapter of NEMBA. The total value of labor and goods donated has an estimated value of \$12,500.
- Future work in north Amherst should focus on building out the “greenway,” as called for in the Master Plan, and diversifying trails to accommodate beginner and more advanced cyclists.

-W.Robertson and Gordon Leedy will discuss development of an RTP grant for future trail work and will report back to ACC.

-Discussion ensued about opportunity to collaborate with Community Development and Recreation Dep’t on development of a trail master plan (aka “greenway” concept). Gordon

Leedy (Community Development) and Patrick Daniel (Rec Dep't) voiced enthusiasm for collaboration with ACC.

-Members of public in attendance (Patrick Daniel, John Alderson) voiced support for the work that has been undertaken at Betty Arnold, B-H, and Haseltine thus far.

Lindabury Contract – J. Harvey

-J. Harvey presented the details of farmer agreement for hayfield management

-Management of field (preservation of soils, retention of rural values, view shed, invasive species control) will occur at no cost to the town.

-John will review with Frank and FOTO

Acquisitions Strategy

-Prioritization will come out of Conservation Plan

-An interim iteration will be developed in the coming months

-Bruce will deliver OSAC manual to Gordon for scanning and distribution to ACC

-Wes will share acquisition criteria from Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

**John moved to adjourn at 9:35 PM and Bruce seconded. Vote: All in favor.**