

## ACC Sept 9, 2015 - Minutes

### Approved

#### Meeting called to order by Chair John Harvey 7:08

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

#### Chair Comments:

John announced that in memory of ACC member Jim Bowen who died on 8/22/2015 a photo scrap book be prepared to be attached to ACC minutes as a permanent record of his contributions to ACC. He joined the commission in 2003 after serving on the Board of P MEC where he was the project manager of the construction of the new building. Send photos to the secretary.

**Minutes – Anne,** Aug minutes approved as corrected

**Treasurer- Bill** Land Account - \$312,548.74 remaining report to follow. Approved

#### Planning Board - Rich

They are working on Warrants for the March Town Meeting. The Board approved the plans for a deck and shed at Map 8 Lot 23-1 on Brook Rd.

**Meadows –** Lee saw a hay wagon at Bragdon (?) Rich is following up for Jack to arrange for the mowing at Lindabury.

#### Topics

**Partnering with the Piscataquog Land Conservancy** – Guest Chris Wells, Director, spoke about the history of the non-profit organization and how it is organized to aid member communities acquire open space land. They have professional staff that are skilled in negotiating with owners, in fundraising and in real estate. They typically are working on 5-6 transactions a year, with maybe two involving major fundraising. They are able to supplement a Conservation Commission's funds by writing grants, working with foundations and conducting fundraising drives of the constituent populations. Chris noted that PLC is the only multi-town regional land trust in our area, and indicated they may be interested in expanding their service territory.

John noted that we never seem to be able to link or time willing sellers with the availability funds, and summarized by stating "To accomplish large transactions we need to work differently than in the past." Rich noted that a goal of the Planning Board is to increase the % open space in Amherst. Discussion of desirable land – is there a list? Anne mentioned the lack of success that the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) that was authorized by Town Warrant (2004 -2009) with \$5 million bonding potential – lack of willing sellers interested in working with the town. There are many legal restrictions and constraints that a Town group is burdened with that don't apply to a Land Trust. ACC will keep in touch with the PB to define the open space goal.

**Summer Intern** – John emailed Tas Vamos's latest version of his Natural Resources Inventory project with the final is expected in a week or two, so we could see the excellent quality of the work he is doing as a volunteer intern. John suggested we offer him a stipend as a gesture of our appreciation. Rob moved and Bruce 2<sup>nd</sup> that we offer him \$500. Moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed.

## **Warrants & Amendment for 2016**

Bruce suggested that ACC prepare a Warrant similar to last year for \$500,000 for land purchase not Discussion – it didn't get very far last year.

John proposed that since Article #38 in 2014 to change Old Joppa Hill Rd from class VI to Class B Trail was successful that we try to do the same with the remainder of that Class VI road. He will discuss with abutters.

## **Election of Officers**

Bruce moved to reelect the current slate, but with Rob Clemens as Vice Chair. Paul 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion. Bill said he would like to be replaced as treasurer. Discussion of the need for a treasurer – need someone to oversee our accounts and that funds are distributed from the correct account. Amendment: Rich nominated Paul for treasurer, Lee 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed. Amended motion; John, Chair, Rob, Vice Chair, Paul Treasurer, Anne secretary – passed with John abstaining. John gave a Current Use check to Paul.

## **Round Table**

**Bill** – showed a *Science* magazine with an article about forest health – Anne took it; will pass on to Lee.

**Rob** – has seen huge flocks of turkeys this summer and will try to get data from Fish & Game

**Rich** is preparing for the Lindabury Cider Festival on 9/26 and showed a prototype poster highlighting ACC activities and services. He would like to have them displayed, but needs lightweight easels ( that would be also used at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July booth). Paul moved that Rich be authorized to spend up to \$100 for easels, 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved. Update of the shed issue – new thought is to recycle the wood to build a smaller new shed for storage. The site is being used more as a park and in the future another shed close to the road may be useful.

**Anne** – Talked to the folks at the shop that makes embroidered shirts and hats for the other Town Departments. They have the town seal in their machine and can easily add Amherst Conservation Commission around the outside for a logo for a hat. She suggested dark green hats with yellow/gold printing that would cost between \$12.00 - \$15.00. Paul found that \$200 has been approved for this so she will get as many as this will buy. The idea would be to give them to the Trail Stewards and maybe sell them to members – at a discount like \$10.

## **John**

- 1 The Chestnut Hill Rd Joe English Trail Head issue ( the free range chickens) has been resolved by the Police Dept.
- 2 Rick Crocker is doing additional trimming at the Towne lot.
- 3 Rec Dept. Director Craig Fraley is interviewing candidates for the PMEC Coordinator position. He asked if any ACC members wish to participate – Anne and Paul said yes. John will let Craig know.
- 4 Received a letter from an abutter of the Pulpit Trail pointing out that this area is a large deer yard in winter. He requested that the trail be closed in the winter season. No action.

**Bill** - volunteered for Alternate status in order to make full membership available to another of our experienced alternates.

## **Paul**

1. The Carlson's are no longer interested in selling their land to the town – they have a potential developer interested.

2. The Stormwater MS 4 has been issued that includes Amherst comments are due by Nov 2.
3. Patrick Tate from ----- is willing to come speak about trapping in NH. All interested so please invite.
4. Pipeline update:  
KM sent a letter asking to talk with town official about Compensatory Mitigation Plan – ACC response - since this implies policy decisions the Selectmen should take the lead on this; ACC available for technical information  
Meetings:  
K & M on 9/16 at 2:00PM at Town Hall  
K&M 9/15 6-8:00 PM at Milford Dome

Congresswoman Kuster sent a letter to K&M expressing concerns of impacted towns including this paragraph about Amherst:

*One of the primary issues that has been brought forth by my constituents is the potential impact that the NED project will have on conservation lands and environmentally sensitive areas. New Hampshire has a rich tradition of protecting our land and preserving it for future generations to enjoy. The ecological vitality of Granite State conservation lands is critical to ensuring that wildlife species continue to live safely within their existing habitats. In particular, citizens of the town of Amherst have raised concerns about the pipeline's potential effect on the Ponemah Bog and Scott Conservation land that are within close proximity of the pipeline route. Citizens of Amherst have highlighted that the biodiversity of these areas and their role as local wildlife sanctuaries could be negatively impacted by the NED project. I respectfully request that Kinder Morgan review these environmental factors and draft alternative routing proposals in the town of Amherst that do not interfere with the Ponemah Bog and Scott conservation land.*

#### **Bruce**

1. The demolition of the Wheeler buildings will be done by Jim Sickler the first week of October. There will be a bill for pumping the septic tank.
2. NHACC sent the dues bill for \$629.00. Discussion of the continued rise in dues with respect to what local commissions receive in benefit – they seem to focus on the state legislative process. Bruce moved we pay, Rob 2<sup>nd</sup> passed. Discussion of the Fall Conference Sat Nov 7. ACC pays the registration fee, John & Rob are going, Anne and Rich maybe.
3. *Citizen* is cutting back on paper issues to one a month – less opportunity for Letters to the Editor

Will Ludt – Heritage Commission reported that their speaker about trail software was very good and they had good attendance from a variety of groups - Including John. Their meeting on Thurs 9/10 is also includes an interesting Public Session- Presentation of CLG Grant-- Four Amherst Farmsteads (1790-1965) Results by Katy Hax Holmes

Meeting adjourned at 9:45

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Krantz, secretary