

ACC July 8, 2015 - Minutes

Meeting called to order by Acting Chair Bruce Beckley at 7:00 pm

Attendees: Bill Wichman, Rob Clemens, Rich Hart, Lee Gilman, Jack Gleason, Paul Indeglia, and Bruce Beckley (Acting Chairman)

Paul Indeglia is designated by Acting Chairman Beckley to take meeting minutes for Secretary Anne Krantz, who was unable to attend.

Chairman's Comments: Bruce Beckley noted that the Commission is absent four Commissioners and the Selectman Representative. Bruce suggest that the ACC refrain from taking pressing action until we have our Chairman, Vice Chairman, Selectman Representative, and/or Secretary present.

Bruce designated alternates for voting:

Paul Indeglia for Anne Krantz

Lee Gilman for Jim Bowen

Rob Clemens for John Harvey

Meeting Minutes:

Bruce Beckley indicated that there was no vote on his motion to table discussion on the Wheeler Property reflected in the minutes. Paul indicated that a 7-0 vote was taken after a summary of the status by Chairman Harvey. If there was no indication of said vote, it was an inadvertent omission. Paul indicated that the minutes for July will be amended accordingly.

Paul Indeglia motioned that the amended minutes be accepted.

The motion is seconded by Rob Clemens.

The motion carried 7-0.

(NOTE: In review of the July minutes, indication of the vote was present, so no amendment to the minutes were necessary.)

Treasurer's Report

Land Account - \$304,514.40

Budget - \$ 1249.34 remained. (We didn't empty it fast enough.)

Gift - \$ 12,364.24

Jack Gleason motioned that the Treasurer's Report is be accepted.

The motion is seconded by Bill Wichman.

The motion carried 7-0.

Planning Board – Richard Hart

Camp Young Judaea has modified the site plan to avoid wetland impacts as well as to reduce number of cabins (although each cabin will hold more people). As a result, Camp Young Judaea will not coming before the ACC.

Eversource is going to prune a large number of trees on a large number of roads. They will not be removing any trees, only pruning.

Jim Callahan appeared before the Planning Board to recount his plans and activities for the ski trail.

Plans and Permits – Jim Bowen (*in absentia*)

Nothing to report

Meadow Management – Jack Gleason

Bragdon has been cut. Jack talked to Steve Blaise and they are only getting 400 bales of hay this year. This amount is down significantly as result of the cold weather and lack of rain in the spring.

Jack indicated that the corn field on Scott looks good.

Nitrogen has already been put on Bragdon North; they are about to do the South meadow.

The team is not pleased with the wood ash so they are looking for a new supplier of wood ash, one that does its own soil testing.

Joppa Hill South: Mike Riccitelli and Jack spent a full day out there removing all stumps and most major stones, but not the perimeter stumps, which does not warrant another day of work. It was noted that the stumps have been providing habitat for garter snakes.

Community Playground/Garden at Joshua's Park – Sally Wilkins and Dawn Tuomala (*in absentia*)

A wetlands permit is being sought on the Adams land. They want to keep the land as agriculture, so there is a proposal for community gardens on the land with a little playground toward the back for younger children with a shaded area. There is a wetland finger that protrudes, which will be incorporated into the playground area by filling the wetlands. Bruce Beckley suggested that a sign be placed on the property to announce that they are placing a garden/playground and that they are seeking financial support. Rich Hart suggested including signage for native plants. Sally indicated that they will incorporate fruit trees along the roadway

Dawn Tuomala arrived at 7:19 to present plans

The wetland impacts will be 1,394 sf. The team will approach the Planning Board next month with a request for a Conditional Use Permit. They need an expedited Wetlands Application to present to NHDES and requested consent by the ACC at the meeting.

They have also obtained a Natural Heritage letter, which was presented to the Commissioners.

There is no increase in runoff from the pre-development condition to the post-development condition as a result of a 2-yr storm event. There will be only a 0.2 cfs increase in runoff from pre-development to post-development at 10-yr storm and just under 0.5 cfs for the 50-year storm.

There will be erosion socks adjacent to the parking lot and the playground.

Bruce Beckley asks what the long-term maintenance will be for the facility. The Recreation Department will handle any long-term maintenance.

Rob Clemens asked about handling of refuse; Dawn indicated it will be a “carry-in/carry-out” facility.

There will be a composting toilet and there could be a composting bin for agricultural wastes.

Rich Hart asks about the driveway connecting to Rt. 122 – Dawn and Sally indicate that they removed that element

There is a drilled well on the site and, although there is no connection, the Pennnichuck water line is adjacent to the property, if needed.

The minutes reflect that, hearing no objection, the Commission supports the application and the application is signed by designee, Paul Indeglia.

2 Lynch Farm Road – Bruce Beckley

Bruce indicated that the process is taking a lot of time and that he is performing a public service for the community. Bruce noted that there was a foot of water on the site and that there was a need to maintain the culvert that crosses the driveway to the house.

Bruce has been working with charities to have the materials from inside the house removed, which is scheduled to occur on July 9.

An RFP was sent to three local contractors that were approved by the Town Administrator to remove the building. The work is slated to start on Sept 7 and to be completed by October 3; proposals are due August 11 and opened at next ACC meeting (August 12).

Afterward, there will be a clean-up of the debris located in the woods and the ACC will acquire a dumpster and have the material moved by volunteers.

There is a truck in the woods (according Andy Pataki) and Bruce verified its presence.

There is a 54” mill saw that might be good for a sign for the property.

Jack Gleason asked if there was an inspection for asbestos. Bruce indicated that the fire marshal and inspector were there and believed that there was no reason to need an asbestos inspection. A discussion ensued regarding the need for an inspection and it was decided that the demolition

contractor will determine the need for an asbestos inspection due to their requirement to dispose of the material.

Paul Indeglia noted that there are contractors who specialize in sustainable demolition, whereby materials are conserved. Paul indicated that the issue of sustainable demolition contractors was brought up previously but apparently no action was taken in response. Paul recognized that the process is already beyond the point of contacting such a contractor but, as the Conservation Commission, the body public should work toward sustainable solutions rather than expedient action.

Round Table

Paul Indeglia

ROST/RCC Meeting – Paul indicated that there is a letter, which has been circulated to Commissioners, from the southern New Hampshire subgroup of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissioners to FERC, the NH SEC, Governor Hassan, and other elected officials, stating reasons for opposition to the Kinder Morgan Northeast Energy Direct pipeline. Paul presented the document for approval and signatures. Seeing as Bruce Beckley, as Acting Chairman, has requested that such issues be deferred to a subsequent meeting, the document was tabled until the August 2015 ACC meeting.

Pipeline Task Force – Paul indicated that there was a meeting with the Task Force and representatives from Kinder Morgan on June 30, which was attended by John Harvey. The Task Force Chairman, John D'Angelo, has requested that the Conservation Commission examine Option 1 (of the three presented) in connection with one of the options presented by the Burys and amend the previously submitted Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment report. Rob Clemens indicated his willingness to continue participating in the Pipeline Environmental Impact Assessment Committee's assessment of the pipeline alignment. No other Commissioners volunteered to participate. Paul indicated he would reach out to Gina Frey, who previously participated as a representative of the Task Force. The Committee will seek to meet before the end of July.

Soak Up the Rain Funding – Paul indicated that NHDES has funds available to install lot-scale stormwater management practices throughout the watershed. Paul solicited interest from other Commissioners to coordinate an effort with Director of Public Works, Bruce Berry, and Community Development Director, Colleen Mailloux; no Commissioners volunteered to participate. Paul asked if there was any opposition to his seeking funding for water programs; no Commissioners indicated opposition.

Carlson Property – Paul indicated that he had been in communication with Lisa Carlson-Hill, daughter of Werner Carlson, regarding potentially obtaining the 32 +/- acres of land abutting Rt. 122. Paul suggested that multiple groups may have an interest in support purchase of the property including the Amherst Recreation Department, the Amherst Land Trust, the Society for the Preservation of New Hampshire Forests, the Pennichuck Corporation, and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, in addition to the Amherst Conservation Commission. Bruce Beckley suggested investigating the Aquatic Resources Mitigation Fund for potential financial support.

Bruce Beckley

Bruce noted that there is no progress being made working with the Merrimack Conservation Commission. Bruce indicated there is work that could be done. Bruce indicated trails are being used but are not marked. Bruce noted that it would be nice to make a better contact with Merrimack.

Bruce indicated that there is a lot of effort to repave roads, but never is there is funding for a recreational lane besides the road, which, in conformance with the Federal standards, would be four-feet in width. It was noted that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) must make the directive to the Department of Public Works, so it would be nice if other departments within the Town to make recommendations to BOS. Rich Hart indicated that there are requests for sidewalks within the Town but nothing seems to be done to turn idea and request in to reality. Paul Indeglia indicates that there needs to be a champion for the cause.

Lee Gilman

Lee brought some loads of wood chips to Lindabury Orchard and needs volunteers to spread it. Rich Hart indicated there was a concerns about the source, but Lee confirms that the chips are of acceptable quality.

Jack Gleason

Ponemah Bog – Jack noted that someone dumped about 34 yards of wood chips in the parking lot at Ponemah Bog. Jack indicated he got bids to remove it for around \$300 but Steve Demeris removed it for free.

Bench – Regarding the bench at his barn, donated by Mr. Matisse, Jack told Mr. Matisse that it would go to the Currier property. Bruce Beckley suggest putting it in the Meadow at Grater Road. Jack indicated that Mr. Matisse, formerly of 22 Fairway Drive, no longer lives in the area and Jack has no way in which to contact him.

Jack Gleason motioned to place the bench at Grater Road.

Lee Gilman seconded the motion.

Paul Indeglia if there would be any effort to contact Mr. Matisse to indicate that the bench would be placed in a locale different than his directive. Jack indicated that there were no plans to inform Mr. Matisse.

The motion passed 6-1.

Rich Hart

Rich asked if anyone knew when the lower part of Lindabury Orchard was going to be mowed. Jack Gleason indicated that it would occur in August. Lee Gilman needs to do some poison ivy abatement; Jack suggested waiting until the grass is mowed, but Lee indicates he will do the herbicide spraying before the mowing.

Rob Clemens

Rob has comments regarding Fourth of July booth. Rob indicates his thanks to all those who helped. There was a lot of traffic and a lot of walk books were given out. An entire box of 200 remains with Rob; Bill Wichman says they are out of updates. Rob indicated that they received a lot of compliments on the booth, but there is a need for new presentation material, so Rob will spearhead effort before next Fourth of July to create new presentation materials. Rich Hart

would like to put together our tasks into collective presentation of posters (i.e. Forest Management, Meadows Management, etc.) with text and photos. Paul Indeglia suggests that Rich send out an email soliciting input. Rich would like to speak to Library to reserve some space for the posters. Lee Gilman volunteered to help out with copy.

Bill Wichman

Walk Books – Town Clerk Nancy Demers still sells the Walk Books, so the publication costs have been paid off!! There are between 300-500 copies left.

Records – Bill has collected all the papers from the last 15 years of ACC activity that have accumulated in large filing boxes. All this material plus any and all additional material from others should be culled as necessary and preserved. Paul Indeglia will check with Colleen Mailloux about space and the existing filing cabinet (which contains ACC files). Paul will check on a time the week of July 20 to meet during the day to go through the material.

Bruce Beckley – Regarding the purchaser of Frasier's property on Brook Road; there was supposed to be a response by July 1 and they were not willing to wait for the Town meeting, and there was no agreement so that opportunity has passed.

Educational Outreach – There is an interest in having a presentation on the "Trails of NH" and there is one group, the residents of Summerfield, already interested. Additionally, Bruce has prepared a PowerPoint for it; he has also prepared another called "New Hampshire the Beautiful".

Rich Hart – Rich indicated some people showed up at the Fourth of July asking about the Fraser Trail going through some people's private property west and north of the Great Meadows asking about their land and the current status and whether there is an easement or some sort of agreement that could be reached. Bill Wichman pointed out that the trail was never really well-defined and that there was some effort in 1978 to get this going. Rich indicated to them that the ACC is actually considering it, but there seems to be an interest locally so this is something that we could take up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.