

ACC June 10, 2015 - Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair John Harvey at 7:09 pm

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

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

Chairman's Announcements – John Harvey

Given the large list of activities for the summer months, ACC members should act as managers to attack all the plans that are planned.

Rob Clemens will vote for Anne Krantz.

Paul Indeglia will vote for Jim Bowen.

Will Ludt will be 3rd on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes – John Harvey

Bruce Beckley moved approve the minutes.

Rob Clemens seconded the motion.

The motion carried 7-0.

Treasury – Bill Wichman

Land Account: \$300,370.13

Operating Budget: \$ 1,952.00

The operating budget needs to be spent by the end of the fiscal year.

Planning Board – Rich Hart

- No Planning Board meeting since last ACC meeting and there is no scheduled meeting until July.
- Camp Young Judea work has been slowed down by internal issues.
- John Harvey spoke with them and they have decided not to expand the tennis courts and will not be coming back to the ACC; however, they will be on Planning Board meeting for July.
- Rich represented the PB at the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) meeting for budget and noted that there was no ACC budget submitted; he recommends that the ACC does submit a budget before the July 1 meeting so that plans can be included on the Warrant Article for 2016.
- John Harvey indicated he did not because the previous two submissions were not considered by the CIP Committee and decided in conjunction with Colleen Mailloux not to submit this year; however, he will submit to CIP Committee if they will consider it.

Meadow Management – Jack Gleason

- Corn has been planted on Scott Property.

- Major management activities have not started yet.
- There is a bench located at the Gleason property that is seeking a good home; It could be placed on Currier Property or on the new trail at Cemetery Fields. Rob Clemens suggested the Grater Woods overlook. Rich Hart suggested the Lindabury Orchard. Commissioners are asked to consider potential locations and the location of the bench will be decided at the July ACC meeting.
- There is a trail sign from Joppa located at the Gleason property that needs to be placed. Jack inquires who will place it and where it should be placed. Jack has concrete to hold it in place as well as a pipe on which to hang it. John Harvey will go out to Joppa to mark the location for placement with a stake and Jack will install it.
- The Head Property on the Souhegan River on Stearns road will be cropped for corn this year.
- Jack would like to have Mike Riccitelli go up to Joppa and remove stumps for about \$900 to \$1,000.

Jack Gleason motioned to spend not more than \$1,000 at Joppa South to remove white oak stumps.

Bruce Beckley seconded the motion.

The motion carried 7-0.

Intern Intro and Plan for Natural Resource Inventory – Tas Vamos

- Tas Vamos, our summer intern, presented the plans for his summer work, which will be to conduct a Natural Resource Inventory for the Town.
- Tas is a Biology Major at St. Andrew's in Scotland and has lived in Amherst for last 8 years.
- He has experience with conducting scientific studies and survey work and bird surveys.
- The NRI will be a collation of numerous previous studies and planning on how to do it. He will use the NRI's from Lyndeborough and South Hampton as templates.
- The sections will include Soils, Geology, Water Resources and Wetlands, and Biological.
- He will work with NRPC to get GIS information.
- John Harvey indicated that the expectation is that the NRI document will be professionally presented; Tas needs to make sure that document is thoroughly cited. Additionally, Tas will need to travel throughout the State to meet with a variety of State personnel.
- Rob Clemens has State geological reports; Jack Gleason also has some soils reports.
- There will need to be reviews by the ACC members; first the outline and then chapter by chapter.
- The NRI is expected to be done in August.
- John Harvey will be mentoring Tas throughout the process.

Rob Clemens motioned that the ACC provides \$100 for Tas to travel around state to meet with Jenn Weimer in the Division of Forestry in Concord, Charlie Koch, Consulting Forester, Rick Van de Poll of Ecosystems Management Consultants, who prepared our wetlands report, Mary Tebow at Cooperative Extension in Goffstown, Cheryl Smith at UNH Plant Diagnostic Lab (603-862-3841), Douglas Cygan, the Invasive Species Coordinator (603-271-3488), who is

knowledgeable about invasives and quarantines, Dr. Piera Siegert (603-271-2561), who is the State entomologist in Concord, and the head geologist for the State.

Bill Wichman seconded the motion.

The motion carried 7-0.

Plan for Cross-Country Ski Trails – Jim Callahan

- Jim submitted as a proposal for activities as well as maps for overall trail locations and parking area/building plan.
- Jim has spread four to five loads of chips already on the trails; he would like permission to dig out the sides of the trails and place fast-growing vegetation (i.e. rye seed) to prevent erosion.
- Regarding the wetlands, there is an Eagle Scout interested in constructing a structure to cross the wetland. Paul Indeglia requests that this individual approach the ACC at the appropriate time. DES may require permission for wetlands crossing.
- Jim will seek to place a snowshoe alternate trail to keep snowshoers off the trail while grooming occurs.
- Jim will seek to work with private property owner (Kevin Curran) to blaze trails to connect to Grater Woods and then maybe, in the future, to the Nahill and White properties.
- Jim would like to make these walking trails now and then widen to be skate-groomed in the future.
- Rob Clemens proposes the ACC seek trail agreements with land owners; this proposal was well-received.
- There will be a gravel parking lot for eight cars with gravel extending about 40 feet down the trail and underneath the building “pad”, which will have a small drainage pipe underneath.
- Jim will need to notify the State for certain elements of this project, specifically the interaction with wetlands.; the ACC members will have to help him fill it out forms and applications as necessary.
- Bruce Beckley inquires if the Planning Board need to give approval for the curb-cut or any other part of the project. Rich Hart will accompany Jim to the Planning office to check with Colleen Mailloux to make sure it is done correctly. A meeting is set for 10 am on June 11. Bruce Berry at the Department of Public Works should be consulted about necessary approvals and potential assistance with some of the project elements. Jim also might want to talk with George Bower to see if there is any possibility for assistance.
- There will be a 12’x30’ waxing/warming shed constructed with a garage and a heavy-duty door for storage and the rest of the building would be for waxing with either a wood-stove or electric stove with electricity provided by EverSource. Inquiry is made into what type of permitting the building will require. Rich Hart indicates that while there is no foundation, it will need a building permit because of its size. Rich will work with Jim to complete the Town permitting process.
- Bruce Beckley offers some extra lumber sitting at his house for the project (bridges or underpinnings of the building).
- In consultation with Craig Fraley, of the Department of Recreation, maintenance will be done by the Cross-Country ski team.

- The building will be portable (disassembled within one-day as it will be constructed offsite and then moved to the property) and will cost between \$3,000 - \$5,000.
- Craig indicated that the Rec Department is interested in maintaining facility trails but the building is more the ski team's; if there is desire to rent skis, then this becomes a different building but there is a possibility that there is no need beyond the ski team and the usage after Jim graduates remains to be seen.
- Bruce suggests a propane stove, as it would be easier, more expedient, and safer especially if it is a public use.
- Electricity lines will incur a cost for installation and consumption.
- There may be issues with fire code safety with a wood stove.
- There may be issues with vandalisms and unauthorized usage.
- Jim would like ACC to cover the cost of the gravel for the parking lot. Craig indicated that the Rec Department could cover cost to construct the parking lot if ACC covers the material costs; Jim indicated there is a potential source for gravel in Peterborough, but there would need to be a substantial cost for transport. Jim and Craig will provide to the ACC a quantity take-off for the gravel necessary for the site.
- Bruce indicated that there is an article on the front of the current Amherst Citizen about Jim having received the Youth Citizen of the Year.

Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Update Presentation – Will Ludt

- Heritage Commission and Historical District Commission went through the process to seek CLG certification a few years ago, which enables the Town to seek select funds.
- Over 200 known barns in Amherst from early 18th Century to 1960s, of which, four (4) were selected to be the focus for preservation: Lynch, Parker, Stone, Christian Hill farms.
- Partners: Will, Mary Mahar, Katie Holmes, Town Historians (Ruslyn Vear, Jackie Marshall, and Katrina Holman), and Sara Siskavich (NRPC).
- Goal is to document accurate description of agricultural life in Amherst in the 18th to 20th century.
- Will will seek to work with Souhegan HS history classes.
- John Harvey grants permission to Will to access Wheeler property (next to Lynch Farm), which was recently acquired by the Town (and managed by ACC).
- Parker Farm corn crib plans: move the shed off the road a bit and have some agricultural exhibit; would be nice to have some trails to connect B&M trail to Pond Parish; Jack Gleason would like to move the daffodils around the little red shed to the corn crib and receives the consent of the Heritage Commission from Will.

Barn at Lindabury Orchard – Will Ludt

- Rich Hart and Will went out to Lindabury Orchard last week (and then Will took Andy Oullette(?) out there); the preservation options for the barn at Lindabury Orchard will be discussed at June 11 Heritage Commission meeting to assess the cost to rehabilitate it.
- The barn was estimated to be from 1940s and the structure and foundation seem to be in very good shape, although there is a considerable amount of poison ivy surrounding the building.
- The barn is currently used to store a picnic table during the cold months.

- There is a question as to what to do with the barn if restored. Originally thought to raze it but if there is any “value” to it, Will would like to see it remain.
- It needs a new roof and a window and doors and poison ivy removal will be important before any construction begins to minimize contractor costs.
- Friends of the Orchard (Randy Chapman) and folks living around the Orchard maintain the barn and fields (not exclusively but primarily).
- There will be a Cider Festival in September to replenish funds for the Friends of the Orchard.
- Jack Gleason indicated that there was an incident in Exeter where children were exposed to poison ivy during a town-sponsored event, resulting in a liability for the Town; therefore, there is a liability issue for the Town from the poison ivy located at the site.

Paul Indeglia motioned to allocate \$400 to eradicate poison ivy from trail and building.

Rich Hart seconded the motion.

The motion carried 7-0.

Baboosic Lake – Will Ludt

- Monday night at BOS meeting, there was a presentation by the Rec Department regarding the milfoil (*Myriophyllum*) on Baboosic Lake, which is documented to be present in 2014 and, through word-of-mouth, has been observed in 2015.
- There needs to be inspection of boats to ensure no continued spread of the invasive.
- A question is raised as to where the funds would need to derive. There would have to be local funding; however, ACC does not have a mandate from the BOS to address it.
- DES has jurisdiction over the Lake due to its size.
- There is no public boat access to the Lake so it is concluded that the residents who live on properties the bound the Lake are responsible for the spread of the invasive, which means that the residents will need to be responsible for ensuring that there is no additional introduction.
- A discussion ensued on the cooperative efforts between Amherst and Merrimack, although it was not clear as to which municipality is or could do what to address the issue.

Wheeler Property – John Harvey

- Tom Quinn, attorney who handled the transaction, is expected to forward the Deed to Jim O’Mara.

Bruce Beckley motioned to table the discussion until we get answers back on questions to Town Administrator.

Bill Wichman seconded the motion.

8:42 pm Bruce Beckley departs meeting.

John Harvey indicated that Lee Gilman will vote for Bruce Beckley.

- There might be some hazardous waste on the site.
- The car has been removed.

- The building has to be removed.
- The ACC needs to get the key to the building to conduct an inspection.
- John Harvey requests that members consider disposal option for the July ACC meeting.

The motion carried 7-0.

Border Perambulation Plan – John Harvey

- Dwight Brew has asked John to have the ACC to be the agent for the Town.
- A discussion ensued as to what portions of the boundary should be perambulated.
- Bill Wichman said that he is the only one present at the Bedford perambulation and it was mostly ceremonial.
- The State does not take the issue very seriously as it does not enforce non-compliance.
- The only recent bound adjustment was with Milford but it was taken care of several years ago.
- John will ask the BOS for copies of any records for the latest (or most recent) perambulation(s).
- Bill knows of all five granite monuments for Bedford because he went there several years ago. He knows where a few of the Milford monuments are. The source of the locations is the HCRD Nashua. There are roughly 200 monuments for the entire Town. 95% of the Town's bounds are recorded from developers.
- John suggested researching known monuments and then GPS-ing them.
- Lee Gilman inspected the Joe English boundary earlier this year; he saw lots of invasive bittersweet, which needs to be eradicated before it spreads into Amherst (more than it already is); Steve Najjar, the manager of the New Boston AF Station, should be approached to request he manage the bittersweet.
- John inquires which bordering Town's should we approach.
- Bill indicated the boundary is approximately 25-30 miles with New Boston (2 mi), Mont Vernon (2 mi), Milford (7 mi), Merrimack (7 mi), and Hollis (3 mi), since Bedford (4 mi) was done. Exact distances could be easily assessed using GIS.
- Best time to do this would be in the fall after the first frost to do it after much of the vegetation is gone.
- John will talk to BOS to get better direction on how this should be addressed.

4th of July Booth – John Harvey

- John reserved the plot of land.
- Rob Clemens is taking the lead on the booth and the displays, which are located at PMEC.
- Rich Hart suggested to bring out the "Walk" books.
- Bill Wichman will print out the updates and Rob will fold and stuff them into the books.
- Rob, Anne Krantz, Lee Gilman, Jack Gleason, and John will be there to talk to passers-by.

Roundtable Discussions

Bill Wichman

Wetland Application Consent – A dozen years ago someone came in with an emergency wetland permit application. To get repairs underway before ACC would meet to consider the project, Bill Wichman investigated and signed on ACC's behalf. It is similarly inconvenient for Bruce Berry at the Department of Public Works to get his applications reviewed so Bill was delegated to sign off on these expedited applications, which occur about 4-5 times annually. Bill does not feel able to continue in this capacity and would like for Paul Indeglia to do it as Bill believes Paul is the most qualified. Paul accepted this responsibility. Paul will get together with Bill on the specific responsibilities. Usually it is just a matter of reviewing and inspecting the application and usually requires no more than 30 minutes per application. There are a couple of categories of applications: one can wait 90 days and this does not need ACC permission; or, there will be times when the applicant does not want to wait and these expedited applications will need ACC signature. Bill will officially notify Bruce of the new designee.

Bill Wichman departed meeting at 9:29 pm.

Rob Clemens

Rob had no items to discuss in the Roundtable.

Rich Hall

Future Funding – The ACC may need to seek options to attract a small amount of funding through a Warrant Article annually to offset the loss (diminishing amounts) from funds obtained by the conversion of lands from current use, which continues to decrease as development of previously designated current use lands decreases.

ACC CD – Rich has provided a CD with all known ACC documents, which was believed to be current as of 2012. Any additional documents that are known and believed not to be on the CD should be shared with the group and incorporated into the ACC files.

Lee Gilman

Hemlock Infestation – An emerging hemlock pest is being found on imported nursery stock. This is the "elongate hemlock scale". The State is trying to quarantine trees affected by this, but they are not really able to screen most of the imports. This issue is affect the Town and elsewhere and is trending to become more of a problem than hemlock wooly adelgid... Ultimately, it will impact all firs and hemlocks.

Jack Gleason

Cemetery Fields – 12 grasshopper sparrows identified at Cemetery Fields.

Ponemah Bog – 8 common core students and then 16 from another conservation group [AmeriCorps?]....new hemlock planking for crossings. There is a new invasion of Southern Pine beetle...there is a trap out at Ponemah as it affects pitch pine, and there is a small stand of pitch pine at Ponemah.

John Harvey

Cemetery Field – Cemetery Field (Forest View) trail to connect Currier to Hodgman; the trustees looked at the Deed and the ACC is restricted from doing anything on this property...by name. There is a private land owner who has a private trail and we will approach him to get a

trail agreement. Perhaps the Rec Dept could approach the Cemetery Commission to have it placed and signed.

Wilkins Easements – John walked the Wilkins easements (trail agreements) that encompasses Davis Lands (and north of Davis Lands) and tracked them with GPS to put on website (some of it actually passes through Mont Vernon). There are a couple of blue Adirondack chairs sitting out there waiting to be occupied to commune with nature.

Runners' Trail – The terrain undulates and John suggested to George Bower (ALT) that it could be connected with Caesar's Brook to create an "extreme" runners' trail.

ACC Caps – Anne Krantz suggested she would talk with Craig Fraley about getting caps...dark green with ACC logo/name for \$8 per unit...she would like to get 10-15 baseball hats for ACC members and trail stewards. We would actually need 20.

Lee Gilman motioned that \$200 be allocated for purchase of ACC caps.

Paul Indeglia seconded the motion.

The motion carried 6-0.

Caesar's Brook Parking – John will be working on the Caesar's Brook trail and parking...committed to it last year but has not started...would like to spend \$252 on Caesar's Brook parking to purchase and place a gravel base. Paul moves to fund the purchase and placement of gravel at both Caesar's Brook and Ski Shed not to exceed \$1,000 to come from the balance of the Budget and the remainder of the necessary funds to come from the Land Management fund. Rob seconds. Voted 6-0.

Paul Indeglia

Pipeline Task Force – numerous documents have been placed on the Amherst Town Website with additional documents to be completed shortly and placed. An alternate will be needed to attend the June 30 meeting with Kinder Morgan, as Paul will be out of town. Rob Clemens volunteered to stand in as ACC liaison to the Task Force.

ROST/RCC Meeting – The group continues to meet the first and third Fridays of the month at the Milford Town Hall. They have generated a draft letter and are seeking to have all Conservation Commissions in the State sign on to it. Once an updated draft is available, it will be distributed for additional comment. Any comments can be forward to Paul Indeglia.

Lindabury Orchard – Rich Hart and Paul bagged three containers of fungicide or pesticide that was located in the barn at the Lindabury Orchard. Paul transported it to the Nashua Public Works garage on June 4 as part of the Hazardous Waste day sponsored by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC), who accepted the material without charge (it would have been \$20.00) as it was from the Town. The NRPC representative indicated that municipalities were allowed to bring hazardous waste prior to the public event. The ACC needs to coordinate with the other entities within the Town to make certain we are notified in advanced of such events so we are able to participate. Chairman Harvey indicated appreciation to Rich and Paul for their clearing ACC property of hazardous wastes.

Source Waste Protection Grant – Paul had attended the May 6 event in Concord and had previously been authorized to seek reimbursement for attendance from the ACC. As Paul realized personal benefit from attendance, Paul will not be seeking reimbursement for the \$55.00 conference attendance fees. Paul has not been able to determine a meeting date with Colleen Mailloux and Bruce Beckley but will continue to try.

Carlson Property (Rt. 122) – Paul continues to try to get the Carlson family to meet to discuss potential transfer of ownership to the public in an effort to curtail additional residential development along the Rt. 122 corridor as well as to establish ACC lands in the southern portion of the Town. Paul indicated that the entire 34+ acre property, which includes two residential lots on Rocky Hill Road, was assessed at approximately \$1.3 million. As the interest is to curtail land development and the associated reduction of pervious surfaces, the residential properties would not be sought for purchase; therefore, the desired parcel(s) total 31+ acres and are assessed at approximately \$900,000. Paul will continue to communicate with the Carlson family and will indicate that the ACC is trying to coordinate efforts to obtain funding from other entities including the Recreation Department, the Amherst Land Trust, the Department of Environmental Services (through the Aquatic Resources Mitigation Fund), the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, and the Pennichuck Corporation.

Bruce Beckley (via email)

Education Program – Under RSA 36-A, conservation commission duties include publications and education. The ACC once did much more along those lines when Jan Woodbury was here and periodic guided family walks were offered. Today there are three groups offering an assortment of programs outside the school system – the Recreation Department (weekly hikes and PMEC programs), The Friends of the Library, and the ACC. Each seems to be flying its own course. At this point, educational outreach by the ACC takes the form of an annual July Fourth table and bi-weekly columns in the Amherst Citizen. Educational kiosks on a couple of trails are a good step. The Audobon Society of New Hampshire kiosk at Ponemah Bog is a good example of a seasonally maintained exhibit. The ACC doesn't do too much on the trail, out of doors, to entice families to enjoy and learn about their beautiful natural town. Bruce has updated a program in the Conservation & More line entitled "Let's Take A Walk", which is designed for a 30-minute program including a 20-minute talk using five dozen slides followed by 10 minutes for Q&A. This is already booked for one town group. If anyone knows of another audience that could benefit from such, it will be a good way to get our message out.