



**Town of Amherst, NH
Conservation Commission
FINAL MINUTES**

Barbara Landry Conference Room

Wednesday, 10 January 2018, 7:00 PM

*Conservation Commission members in attendance were: Rob Clemens, John Harvey,
Jared Hardner, Rich Hart, and Victor Bennison.
Also in attendance: Will Ludt, Kristan Patenaude*

I. Call to Order

Chairman Rob Clemens called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

II. Chair Comments

Mr. Clemens welcomed Ethan Belair, the Hillsboro Count Forester, to the meeting. He also updated the Commission on the status of the Labelle proposition. The deed and restrictions are going to be reviewed by counsel and the group will reengage with this item in Feb/March.

III. Review of Meeting Minutes from 12/13/2017

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Hardner and SECONDED by Mr. Bennison to accept the meeting minutes from December 13, 2017 as amended.
Voting: 3 ayes, 1 abstention. Motion carried.*

IV. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Harvey presented the Treasurer's Report.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Hardner and SECONDED by Mr. Bennison to accept the Treasurer's Report.
Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

V. Planning Board Update

Mr. Hart explained that there was only 1 item in front of the Board last week. They discussed the cutting down of 3 dead trees on Mack Hill Road, and passed a motion to allow it.

46 **VI. Update on Eagle Scout Project – Sam Newman**

47 Mr. Newman was not able to appear before the Commission, but his mother presented the
48 group with before/after pictures. She explained that Mr. Newman did so well with his car
49 wash fundraiser at the fire station, that he was able to buy 5 stone steps. He also installed
50 traction strips on the bridge, and replaced the old sign and post.

51
52 The Commission approved and signed off on Mr. Newman’s project.

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54 **VII. Amherst Forest Assessment**

55 Mr. Ethan Belair introduced himself and explained his job and current projects to the
56 group.

57
58 Mr. Hardner explained that it might be helpful to bounce drafts of the Forest Management
59 Plan off of Mr. Belair, if possible. He’d also like for Mr. Belair to help the group with
60 invasive species outreach strategies for the community.

61
62 Mr. Belair explained that many private landowners could have sources for invasive species
63 in their acreage and not even know it. Generally, if people are educated about this, they are
64 concerned and want to do what they can to help. He hopes that Amherst could be a pilot
65 project town for developing the process of an educational program.

66
67 The Commission discussed the emerald ash borer and its effect on the town of Amherst.
68 Mr. Belair explained that Amherst is in a quarantine town and that ash trees harvested here
69 cannot be sent to a non-quarantine town. The group discussed educational opportunities for
70 this issue. Mr. Belair explained that the death rate for ash trees infected is 100% and the
71 only effective management strategy is to reduce the emerald ash borer’s spread. Within 5
72 years all of the ash trees in Amherst will be infected, and in another 5 years after that all of
73 the ash trees will be dead.

74
75 The Commission discussed having Mr. Belair come and do a Town Hall-type meeting and
76 a forest walk-through with any interested members of the public. Mr. Clemens stated that
77 they will try to set up this meeting before March 14th at P MEC.

78
79 **VIII. 2018 Warrant Article Support**

80 Mr. Clemens explained that he would like to take the fact sheet that Mr. Hardner created
81 for the 2 warrant articles and spin it into a Facebook blurb, an article for the newspaper, a
82 flyer, etc.

83
84 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Hardner and SECONDED by Mr. Harvey to allocate up to*
85 *\$200 from the education fund for Ms. Kristan Patenaude to create educational support*
86 *materials regarding the upcoming warrant articles.*

87 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

88
89 **IX. Conservation Plan Approval**

90 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Harvey and SECONDED by Mr. Bennison to accept the*
91 *submitted Conservation Plan as the Commission’s active plan.*

92 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

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94 **X. Trail Development and Use // Trail Brochure Development**

95 The Commission reviewed a draft brochure from Ms. Patenaude and gave edits for a more
96 final draft, to be reviewed, along with quotes for printing, at the next meeting.

97

98 The group discussed the Opportunity Networks/Bill Long Memorial proposal. Mr.
99 Clemens, Mr. Bennison, and Mr. Harvey met to look at trail candidates – including the Sky
100 Meadow trail, a Lindabury Orchard trail, or the Currier Trail.

101 The Commission agreed that a bridge, kiosk, or similar feature on the trail could be named
102 after and dedicated to Mr. Long.

103 Mr. Clemens will discuss their plan with the cemetery trustees and offer up their candidates
104 to Opportunity Networks afterward.

105

106 Mr. Hardner discussed with the group an idea for grooming certain trails around town
107 during the winter. He set forth 3 ideas for grooming: snowshoeing, purchasing a SnowDog
108 (which lays down heavier tracks than a snowmobile), or a snowmobile. Mr. Hardner stated
109 that he was approached by a couple of mountain bikers in town who are willing to purchase
110 a SnowDog and allow it to be used for grooming of trails.

111 Mr. Clemens explained that the group would need to agree which trails should be groomed,
112 before giving specific people in town permission to groom them. He also wants to reach
113 out to the Recreation Department, while Mr. Hardner talks with NEMBA, before making
114 any decisions.

115

116 Mr. Hardner explained that he would like the Commission to allow mountain bikers to tidy
117 up along the Hemlock Trail next summer, after logging has been completed.

118

119 The Commission agreed to allow Mr. Hardner in the spring to reroute a couple of trails
120 leading into Joe English to follow the contours and guidelines more properly.

121

122 **XI. Round Table**

123 Mr. Clemens explained that Mr. Arnold is currently reviewing a draft P&S agreement for
124 the Sky Meadow property. There is a 90 day period, until April 1, to get all of the back-
125 and-forths between the parties resolved.

126

127 **XII. Adjournment**

128 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Bennison and SECONDED by Mr. Harvey to adjourn the*
129 *meeting at 9:50 pm.*

130 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

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136 *Respectfully submitted,*

137 *Kristan Patenaude*