



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

**Barbara Landry Conference Room**

**Wednesday, 8 November 2017, 7:00 PM**

*Conservation Commission members in attendance were: Rob Clemens, John Harvey, Jared Hardner, Rich Hart, Lee Gilman, Wes Robertson, Victor Bennison, and William Widmer – Alternate.*

*Also in attendance: Simon Corson – Planner, Will Ludt, Kristan Patenaude*

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Rob Clemens called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**II. Chair Comments**

Mr. Clemens stated that the NHACC meeting in Pembroke on Saturday was very good. There was a lot of helpful information on easement monitoring. He believes it would be helpful for the Commissioners to have some training on this item, as the group should be monitoring their properties on an annual basis.

**III. Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2017**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Robertson and SECONDED by Mr. Harvey to accept the meeting minutes from October 11, 2017 as amended.*

*Voting: all aye. Motion carried unanimously.*

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Harvey reviewed the Treasurer's Report, which can be found at the end of these minutes.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Gilman and SECONDED by Mr. Bennison to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted.*

*Voting: all aye. Motion carried unanimously.*

**V. Planning Board Update**

Mr. Hart explained that the Planning Board met last week regarding a requested plan to build a development on a wedge of land that lies between Boston Post Road and the Wilkins School area. There will be more future discussion regarding this plan. There is

46 mention of building a trail with the development, but it would be private to them. There is  
47 some wet land in the area. The Board also discussed and approved the cutting of some trees  
48 on Ponemah Road. A non-agenda item was briefly discussed regarding removal of dead  
49 trees along 5 scenic roads in town. The Commission discussed how appropriate the  
50 removal of a large number of trees would be. This will be discussed more at a future  
51 Planning Board meeting.

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53 In response to a question from Mr. Harvey, Mr. Clemens stated that there will be a walk of  
54 the previously discussed possible development area on Brookwood Drive, on the 18<sup>th</sup> at  
55 10:30 a.m. It will be open to interested parties.

## 56 57 **VI. 2018/19 Budget Request**

58 Mr. Clemens explained that he, Mr. Hardner, and Mr. Harvey worked on a presentation to  
59 the Board of Selectmen regarding next year's budget. The presentation went well and they  
60 received good comments back.

61 Mr. Hardner agreed that the Board gave the Commission accolades on their work, although  
62 it seemed unsure if there will be enough money in the budget to accommodate all of the  
63 items the Commission has submitted for. He also stated that this meeting was also a good  
64 trial run for the strategic plan.

65 Mr. Harvey explained that the Board asked that the Commission come by their meetings  
66 more often with interesting topics to present to them.

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68 The Commission discussed putting forth a warrant article in order to aid the conservation  
69 fund from the capital reserve fund. Mr. Clemens stated that he would research some old  
70 warrant articles and begin the process.

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72 In response to a question from Mr. Widmer, Mr. Clemens explained that there will be an  
73 item in next year's budget to cover a public outreach position for Ms. Kristan Patenaude.  
74 Mr. Harvey explained that there are also high school/college interns interested in helping  
75 the Commission to make some short films on some of the trails.

## 76 77 **VII. Conservation Plan Update**

78 Mr. Hardner stated that the current draft plan is being peer reviewed by Amanda Stone at  
79 the UNH Cooperative Extension. The Commission discussed utilizing different databases  
80 in order to make the plan more robust. Mr. Hardner also discussed doing more direct  
81 outreach to landowners in town to raise their awareness.

## 82 83 **VIII. Trail Development and Use**

### 84 **a. SCA Field Data Collection**

85 Mr. Corson explained that the SCA mapped the Haseltine trails using the Trimble  
86 and the data will be compared to the town's map data as soon as he receives it.

### 87 88 **b. Trail Brochure Development**

89 Mr. Clemens stated that that he, Mr. Bennison, and Mr. Corson discussed the  
90 value of something in addition to the walk book and the town website in order to  
91 bring the public's attention to the trails. A brochure with general info about the

92 ACC and the trail networks in town would be cheaper to reproduce and nice to  
93 handout at many venues. Mr. Bennison and Mr. Hart agreed to work with Ms.  
94 Patenaude in order to draft up a brochure.  
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96 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Harvey and SECONDED by Mr. Bennison to*  
97 *allocate up to \$250 from the town budget in order to design a trail brochure file*  
98 *to be printed in the future.*

99 *Voting: all aye. Motion carried unanimously.*

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101 In response to a question from Mr. Clemens, Mr. Robertson explained that the granite  
102 stacked up on Nathaniel Drive is to complete the Eagle Scout project of rebuilding the  
103 stairs.  
104

105 Mr. Hardner explained that the mountain bike community put forth a huge effort in the  
106 northern part of town to remove all of the downed trees from the storm.  
107

108 Mr. Bennison stated that he has blazed the Currier trail. The next step will be to put up a  
109 kiosk.  
110

111 Mr. Harvey and Mr. Robertson discussed a parcel on Wilson Hill that is in Merrimack,  
112 but partially owned by the ACC. Mr. Harvey explained that a private citizen put a trail on  
113 town property without permission. Mr. Clemens explained that this parcel has a long  
114 legal history regarding what can be done on it. There won't be legal recourse for the  
115 private citizen putting up a trail, but only because of legal efforts taken by the ACC in the  
116 past. Mr. Clemens wants to make sure this issue doesn't happen again in the future. The  
117 Commission then discussed the procedure for new trail development. Mr. Harvey and  
118 Mr. Bennison agreed to help the trail development group begin to meet again.  
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#### 120 **IX. Bike and Pedestrian Survey**

121 Mr. Simon Corson discussed the Community Development Office's Bike and Pedestrian  
122 survey. The survey was released several months ago in order to help create a master plan.  
123 Mr. Corson asked the Commissioners to take the survey, if possible.

124 Mr. Hardner stated that the subcommittee is trying to hammer out a mission statement and  
125 a list of projects that can be accomplished.  
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#### 127 **X. Property Updates – Arnold/Sky Meadow**

128 Mr. Clemens stated that the Commission went before the Board of Selectmen on the 23<sup>rd</sup> in  
129 order to receive formal approval to acquire the Arnold property. The meeting went  
130 smoothly and the presentation was appreciated. Mr. Clemens got authority from the Board  
131 of Selectmen to use Mr. Jim O'Mara as an agent. He's unsure on the current progress of  
132 things, but is hoping to close before the end of the year.  
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#### 134 **XI. Lindabury Orchard Update**

135 Mr. Hart updated the Commission on the status and projects of Lindabury Orchard.  
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138 Mr. Harvey presented the Commission with an article he found in Forest Society  
139 magazine, regarding a seldom used conservation restriction RSA. The RSA allows a land  
140 owner to get a tax break and put a permanent easement on their land, as long as it has  
141 high conservation value. He suggested advertising this tool to the public for tax savings  
142 in the future.

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144 **XII. Adjournment**

145 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Bennison and SECONDED by Mr. Hardner to adjourn the*  
146 *meeting at 9:25 p.m.*

147 *Voting: all aye. Motion carried unanimously.*

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153 *Respectfully submitted,*

154 *Kristan Patenaude*

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184 **Finance and Asset Manager Report**

185 **As Of November 30, 2017**

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187 **Treasury**

188 • **Conservation Fund: \$578,964.05 (Up \$3,637.19)**

189 ◦ Deposit: LUCT lot \$3,447.61 (lot 4-147-013) 7 Victoria Ridge

190 ◦ Deposit: Interest: \$189.58

191 ◦ Approved Expenditure: Haseltine drainage repair \$400 (Marc Valliancourt)

192 • **Town Budget FY17: \$16,698.67**

193 ◦ Paid Expenditure: Building materials/Frank \$2,205.42

194 ◦ Paid Expenditure: Invasives Lindabury poison ivy/VCS \$1,200

195 ◦ Paid Expenditure: Kiosk lumber/Currier \$715.56

196 ◦ Paid Expenditure: Signage \$258.44

197 ◦ Paid Expenditure: NHACC Dues & Rob Fee: \$629.00

198 ◦ Approved Expenditure: Ph I invasives Beaver Bk Park/VCS \$1,920

199 ◦ Approved Expenditure: Ph I invasives Caesar's Bk/VCS \$2,384

200 • **Gift: \$9,066.59**

201 ◦ To Be Reimbursed from Cons Fund: \$6570.52

202 ◦ Deposit: Interest: \$1.98

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204 **Contracts, Leases and Purchases**

205 • Riccitelli mowing contract for 2018 signed

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207 **Assets**

208 • No transactions

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