

**Town of Amherst  
Conservation Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, July 12, 2017  
7:00pm**

**Attendance:** R. Clemens-Chair, B. Widmer, R. Hart, L. Gilman, V. Bennison, W. Robertson, B. Beckley, J. Hardner-Alt (voting for J. Harvey) P. Lyon Selectman Representative

**Staff:** Planner S. Corson

**Administrative**

Chairman Rob Clemens called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Rob asked Jared to sit in for John Harvey. Jared obliges.

Wes arrived at 7:14pm.

**Minutes (from 6/14) – Simon**

Jared sparked a discussion about the style of minute taking. Jared moves to have meeting minutes taking in summary style. Rich seconded. All vote in favor. Motion passes.

Jared provided edits to the 6/14 minutes. There was some discussion. Rob moves to accept the 6/14 minutes as edited. Vic Seconded. Wes abstained. All vote in favor. Motion passes.

**Treasurer's Report**

Rob summarized the Treasurer Report in John's absence. The report is attached.

**Planning Board Update – Rich**

Rich provided a Planning Board update. He discussed test wells in the aquifer district.

**Topics**

**Arnold Parcel (8-9) – Public Input on ACC Intent to Acquire**

Rob clarified that no public hearing would take place this evening. However, he said he will schedule a public hearing soon. Following the public hearing, the acquisition must go in front of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) for approval. Rob suggested that he could schedule the public hearing directly before a BOS meeting to most efficiently complete the acquisition.

**Conservation Management Plan – Jared**

Jared discussed the Conservation Management Plan. Several commissioners add comments. The group discussed the strategy section in depth. Some commissioners expressed interest in the

ACC narrowing their focus, while others articulated that a Conservation Commission's enabling statutory language gives the ACC responsibility over a broad spectrum of topics. Rob discussed times where the BOS have asked the ACC to understand and advise the BOS on various Town undertakings including providing justifications when acquiring property.

Lee, John, and Jared hiked Bragdon and discussed forest management work. There was some discussion about the proposed work. Jared moves to authorize up to 2,600 dollars for forest management in Bragdon from the Conservation Fund. Wes seconded. All vote in favor. Motion passes.

Jared discussed a drainage issue at Hazeltine. Jared moves up to 500 dollars from the Conservation Fund to fix the drainage problem caused the Hazeltine logging operation. All vote in favor. Motion passes.

### **Infrastructure Update – Frank**

Frank was not in attendance.

### **Invasives Management Proposals**

Rob asked Lee to talk about the proposals. Lee handed out a packet and went through the proposals from Vegetation Control Service, Inc. to treat invasives at Caesar Brook Reservation, the Great Meadow Conservation Area, Beaver Brook Park, and a project at the intersection of Cross Street and Courthouse Road. Jared and Lee discussed the Forest Management Plan as it applies to best practices in regards to invasives. There was a long discussion about what the Town's long term plan for invasives should be.

Bruce leaves at 9:45pm. Bill leaves at 9:48pm.

Wes moves to expend 1,920.00 dollar for Phase 1 invasive management work at Beaver Brook Park and 2,384.00 dollars for invasive management work at the Caesar Brook Reservation pending due diligence and approval from Town Administrator, Jim O'Mara. Vic seconded. All vote in favor. Motion passes.

### **Walk Book Future**

Rob decided to table this discussion.

### **Project Updates**

#### **Trail Committee/ Trail of the Month scheduling/hosting – Wes**

Bruce and Wes will lead a hike in Converse Woods on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The hike will start at 34 Pond Parish Road also known as the Conserve Woods parking lot.

### **Fourth of July Review**

Rob thanked Rich for helping to organize and orchestrate the ACC booth during the Fourth of July festivities.

### **Metal Prospecting Policy**

Rob tabled the discussion of the Metal Prospecting Policy.

### **Round table**

Vic told the Commission he plans to replace the trail map at Converse Woods

Jared and several other commissioners discussed the Betty Arnold parking lot. Rob moves to allocate up to 500 dollars for plant materials to properly landscape the Betty Arnold parking lot. Vic seconded. All vote in favor. Motion passes.

Rob announced the ACC next meeting will be July 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Wes moves to adjourn. Rob seconded. Meeting ends at 10:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Simon Corson