



Town of Amherst, NH

Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes

Barbara Landry Meeting Room

Monday, August 13, 2018

1 *Conservation Commission members in attendance were: Rob Clemens, Vick Bennison,*
2 *Michael Cohen, Frank Montesanto, Jared Hardner, Lee Gilman, and Wes*
3 *Robertson.*

4
5 **Pursuant to New Hampshire RSA 36-A:5, The Amherst Conservation Commission**
6 **hereby announces to the citizens of Amherst the convening of a Public Hearing to**
7 **take input on the acquisition of property by the Town. All interested citizens are**
8 **invited to participate.**

9 *Map & Lot: 008-009-000*

10 *Owner of Record: John H. Arnold*

11 **I. Call to Order**

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

13
14
15 Mr. Clemens presented the proposed acquisition of Sky Meadow for public comment. This
16 proposal was originally presented to the Board of Selectmen last October 23rd:

17
18 **1. ACC Public Hearing: Pursuant to RSA 36-A:5, consideration for**
19 **acquisition of the property by the ACC**

20
21 *Selectman Panasiti moved, second by Selectman Akillian, to release funds from the*
22 *Conservation Commission Trust Fund for the purchase of the Sky Meadow property*
23 *located at Map/Lot 8-9.*

24 *Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

25 *The Conservation Commission meeting adjourned.*

26
27 More recently, the ACC has agreed upon a number of restrictions with the owner of the
28 property that are now being presented to the Board and to the public.

29
30 Sky Meadow is a 15 acre property located northeast of the transfer station on Austin Road.
31 The Arnold family named it "Sky Meadow" due to the view of the meadow from the scenic
32 road. This property abuts the transfer station land and the Betty Arnold forest. Mr. Arnold
33 lives in California and would prefer to sell the land to the town/ACC than have it be

34 subdivided. He does have specific wishes for the land. These restrictions have been reviewed
35 and agreed with by the ACC. Mr. Clemens reviewed the list of restrictions.

36
37 In response to a question from Chairman Brew of the Board, Mr. Clemens stated that the
38 purchase price of the property is \$65,000. The original request of the Board was “not to
39 exceed \$70,000.”

40
41 In response to a question from Selectman Grella, Mr. Clemens explained that these
42 restrictions are not stricter in comparison to other ACC properties, with the exception maybe
43 of the desire to keep any trails out of the meadow itself. The trail being designed will have
44 good views of the meadow, but will not go through it.

45
46 *Mr. Clemens opened the public hearing regarding the Sky Meadow property acquisition at*
47 *7:10p.m.*

48
49 Andy Caisse, a member of the public, stated that he is all for the acquisition by the ACC.

50
51 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Hardner and SECONDED by Mr. Gilman to accept the*
52 *conservation restrictions on the Sky Meadow property as put forth by Mr. Clemens.*
53 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

54
55 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Hardner and SECONDED by Mr. Robertson to close the*
56 *ACC’s public hearing and recess the meeting.*
57 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

58
59 *A MOTION was made by Selectman Lyon and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to*
60 *approve the conditions as presented by the Amherst Conservation Commission on the*
61 *purchase of the Arnold property on Austin Road.*
62 *Voting: 5-0-0; motion passed unanimously.*

63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73 *Respectfully submitted,*
74 *Kristan Patenaude*