

Amherst Conservation Commission Minutes

Amherst Town Hall –Oct 9, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Bill Wichman in lieu of any senior officer

Attendance: Bill Wichman, Rich Hart, Jack Gleason, Alternate Daryl D'Amato voting for John; Dwight Brew representing BOS

Minutes: Minutes from September – no corrections noted..

Treasurer – Bill

No report delivered due to non-receipt of bank statements.

Following inserted 12 October 11:

Land Accounts, total	\$ 364737.31	
Gift Account	\$ 10396.02	
Trail Grant Donations	\$ 438.28	(as of 10/12/11)

Budget FY12 – No report

Planning Board Update – Rich

1. Workforce Housing decision put off to future meeting;
2. Michachunk (or successor) desires support for a warrant article to discontinue part of the Class-6 road that traverses their land from North Street to Lyndeborough Road and crosses planned houselots. Said Road touches a corner of the ACC Wilkins land. Commission expressed (but did not vote) sympathy, with a recommendation that the Warrant Article mention potential trail and other conservation advantages.

D&F correspondence:

Nothing new to consider

Chair announcements – None.

Proposal to Sell Land – Carol and Len Lavasseur offered to sell Lot 25/10-1 to ACC to expand its Gault lot to the south (25/103). Assessed value approx \$ 43,000. Bill explained ACC circumstances, both assets and commitments, as prohibitive to the prospect of ACC making such an investment. Various members mentioned means by which the owner could strongly reduce the tax assessment on the property (such as donation to the Town of a Conservation Easement). No vote taken.

Application for Expedited Permit to install Perched Beaches – Greg Gendron of Clark Island Road submitted a completed application for signature by ACC, along with a question

about the interpretation of one blank to be completed, i. e., extent of wetland disturbed. Group consensus was that that quantity is zero, since all work is to be confined to shoreland, and that the shoreland disturbance is 50 feet, the combined length of 2 perched beaches. With the understanding that applicant will verify that interpretation with DES prior to filing, Bill signed 2 copies of the application. No vote taken.

OHRV Ordinance – Dwight's initiative

Long and inconclusive conversation concerning the need for an Ordinance at all, since ATVs are governed by State laws and snowmobiles could be prohibited on specific properties. Bill took an action item to prepare a list for joint ACC/BOS consideration, naming properties unsuitable for snowmobiles, properties we are willing to allow them to operate on, and those that require further qualification (such as those where only one of many trail would be suitable).

Round Table

Several items from Jack:

1. Jack and Mike have completed the mowing and most of the invasive removal on the northern fields (both Amherst and Bedford) at Joppa Hill Farm. As witnessed on today's Trail Walk, those fields are now magnificent.
2. JHF south field, where we cleared last autumn, is re-sprouting bittersweet, which needs further treatment and interferes with bush-hogging. Also, the stumps from last year's action still need removal.
3. Last year's brush pile in same field needs burning.
4. Skip Lyle has inspected the Beaver Deceiver installation, declares it needs some servicing, and will presumably render same (perhaps at lower water than we presently enjoy).
5. With the aid of prison labor, Jack has replaced and/or upgraded the boardwalk at the (Audubon) Ponemah Bog Reservation.

On Friday Sept. 16 at 10:00 Bruce and Rich supervised the Souhegan students in the tasks of . carrying the new stringers (6' x6' x 16') to the site, removing the good decking, installing new beams, and putting the decking back They also installed signs & posts and took a hike.

Bruce conducted a group of 9 Bedford and Amherst residents on a well-publicized hike, the length and back of the Pulpit Brook Trail from the Educational Farm to its junction with the Campbell Trail in Pulpit Rock Reservation. 6 of the group made the entire 5-mile jaunt.

Meeting adjourned ca. 9:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Wichman, Utility Infielder