

Alstead Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2016

Members present: Sarah Webb, Marilou Blaine, Donna Sabin, Joyce Curll, Joyce Campbell-Counts

Guests present: Fred Ernst from Cold River Advisory Committee
Gary Speed from Walpole Conservation Committee
Joel McCarty from Alstead Selectboard

I. Meet with Joel McCarty, Alstead selectman, and Fred Ernst from Cold River Advisory Committee for Warren Brook Restoration funding - Sarah opened discussion with an offer of \$5,000 toward restoration, stating that the ACC budget is for land conservation. Marilou proposed using income from the town forest timber cut, but Joel said that is not available.

Fred and Gary presented their request for funding by February 10, 2016, which is a third extension of their grant. They need \$26,000. The remaining work must be done in order to use grant money that expires in September 2016. (They have \$190,000 in grants.) They are using volunteer labor to do the plantings.

After Fred, Gary, and Joel, departed, members discussed the options. In conclusion, Sarah offered to donate \$10,000 of her own, and members voted (3 for/1 against) to donate \$16,000 from the ACC Conservation fund of approximately \$60,000. The rationale for the public is that ACC funds can be used to restore land due to changes or damage from weather, water, and natural causes.

In a related discussion, Joel proposes the ACC prepare Warrant Articles for next year that fund the ACC from multiple sources, as well as a Conservation Commission Capital Reserve Fund for the voters to control.

II. Arbor Day update - the date is Friday, April 22, 2016. Members agreed to combine preparation for Arbor Day with Earth Day.

Marilou Blaine has arranged these events: John Ryan demonstrating Shaker box construction, science teacher Mitch Harrison presenting to 7th and 8th graders, and Michael Neerie discussing beehives made from Japanese knotweed.

Members agreed to make payment to the presenters for Arbor Day at \$75 per hour.

In addition, members agreed to spend \$300 to fund a three-hour lab demo about caterpillars, with the time to be shared with Mitch Harrison.

A poster contest, prior to the event, will occur with the theme of "Trees, Cities, and Towns."

III. Minutes from January 2016 meeting - accepted as amended

IV. Note - This meeting is Marilou Blaine's last one as an ACC commissioner. Members expressed their appreciation of her guidance and efforts and wished her well in new endeavors.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Campbell-Counts, March 2, 2016