

**Minutes of the Special Meeting 1/13/2016
Alexandria Conservation Commission Meeting**

Call meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order by Ernie Lamos at 18:01

Members present: Jennifer Tuthill, Steve Whitman, Ernie Lamos, George Whittaker, Andrea Tuthill, Dave Chapman, Tom Larson, and Merry Ruggirello. Bob Piehler was present as a representative from the BOS.

Guests: Amanda Stone, UNH Cooperative Extension Service

This was a special meeting called for the specific purpose of establishing and discussing Commission Objectives for the short term (current year), medium term (next 1 -2 yrs), and long term (3 yrs. plus). The discussion was led by Amanda Stone from the UNH extension service.

New Business:

Amanda facilitated the brainstorming and discussion session asking for suggestions from Commission members regarding what they felt were things they would like to see changed / improved to make the Commission more productive. These ideas became goals or objectives and were grouped into major categories. We then moved into the area of specific activities we felt were important. These activities were then assigned into one of the major objective/goal categories. The next step will be to prioritize each objective/goal category, and then the individual activities within that category.

Throughout the session, Amanda was able to relate personal experiences and examples of how other groups and organizations had addressed and succeeded in accomplishing similar objectives. She will send us a summary of the session discussion, informational resource links we may find helpful, and additional material. Amanda has offered to meet with us again to help us better understand how to prioritize our objectives to obtain maximum impact.

The Commission's thanks to Amanda for her participation at our meeting.

Other Business:

Because of the importance of completing the NRI in order to fully understand the natural resources we have and where they are located, Steve was authorized to request that Moosewood Ecological present a formal proposal to complete the Alexandria NRI by completing NRIs for the Fowler River and Smith River watersheds. Steve will do this immediately, and request that the proposal be available for presentation at the 1/27 regularly scheduled meeting for discussion by the Commission members. At that time, the Commission will determine if additional proposals will be requested from others or move forward with finalizing a contract with Moosewood Ecological.

Jennifer brought up the fact that the calendar contest had received over 60 entries to date. She reviewed expenses incurred to date for the purchase of mounting boards and covers for displaying the photos, and the projected expense of \$8.99 per calendar to produce the actual calendars. It was decided that we should produce enough calendars to provide each person who submitted a photo one plus some additional to be handed out at the deliberative session; a total of 75 was agreed upon for the initial run. Orders will be taken for additional calendars and a re-print made as needed. Andrea suggested that a 'donation box' be placed next to the sign-up sheet for calendars so people could donate, if they so desired, to help off-set the cost; all agreed that this was a good idea – estimated cost for the calendar contest, including free calendars for any resident who desires one will be around \$800.

There being no further business brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 20:17. Our next scheduled meeting is January 27th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Whitman, Secretary

