

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 12th , 7:00 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Jack Rose Dick VanDyne, Cort Hansen, Josephine Howland, Steve Knox Alternate

Immediately following the 5:30 pm public meeting with the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust, members of the Albany Planning Board and Albany Selectmen, Rob called the meeting to orders at 7:00 pm.

Jack moved that the board approve minutes of the 5/1/12 meeting, Dick seconded the motion and the minutes were approved 5-0.

Rob discussed the new handbook he had distributed for NH Conservation Commissions printed by the NH Association of Conservation Commissions which the Albany CC is a member. Rob highly recommended that each board member read it thoroughly in order to learn more about the responsibilities of Conservation Commissions under NH State law.

Rob brought up a recent e-mail request from Will Abbott of Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (USVLT) asking permission for entry through the locked gate for artists that are working for USVLT for the summer on a USVLT project. Rob also noted a similar inquiry that Steve had recently received from an Albany resident. He felt that this drew attention to an immediate need for a CC policy on access to the new forest property, noting that while forest harvest work was on-going trail work and parking access would have to be limited. Cort suggested that the commission issue a statement explaining the forest harvesting operation and the temporary nature of the limited access for safety reasons and the planning of trail and access points once the cutting operation had ceased. He suggested that this both be posted and forwarded to the town columnist in order to inform Albany residents about the temporary property access.

Rob reviewed paperwork from Don Johnson of FLI and Kathy Vizard, Albany AA and noted that the funds deposited to Albany's forest account from timber harvesting was currently over \$10,000.00.

Rob went down the list topics from the agenda and suggested that access, trail planning, layout and construction, gates and regulation was the most important topic. It was agreed that a completed trail network might be as much as 6-12 months from completion depending on USVLT's involvement in the process and the duration of the timber harvesting.

The issue of field mowing was discussed with preliminary estimates provided of around \$1800 annually. This figure was substantially higher than what Bayard Kennett had quoted in earlier conversations but this price quotation was provided by the same individual who had been doing this work for several years now. Other options to lower the cost of annual field mowing were discussed including; leasing the field for haying, or other agricultural use, grazing with goats or sheep, volunteer mowing, etc. Rob said he would approach K. Hussey and Steve said he would approach Todd Marshall to see if they were interested in being involved with this type of arrangement. Rob said that he and Cort would handle brush mowing in preparation for the Albany summer party and Steve and Dick said they would assist with law mowing the same area.

Jack mentioned that he had followed up with Earl Sires, Conway Town Manager regarding any necessary town permits required for the summer party. No information to report on this matter yet.

The next meeting was scheduled for July 10th at 5:30 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn and the meeting ended at 7:45 pm.

Cort Hansen, Board Secretary.