

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 5th, 2017. 6:00 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Cathy Ryan, Cort Hansen, Mike Stewart, Absent: Paul Brown Alternate Austen Bernier Alternate. Selectman: Joe Ferris, Planning Board Chair: Tara Taylor, Sean Wadsworth, Planning Board. Public: Sarah Ashley Davis & Jake Davis Littlefield Farm, Steve Knox, William Abbott USVLT & Jesse Wright USVLT.

Rob called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Rob asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes for the 11/7/17 meeting. With no questions or comments, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the 11/7/17 meeting minutes was made by Mike and seconded by Cathy. With a vote, the 11/7/17 meeting minutes were approved 4-0.

Rob noted that with the resignation of Peter Carboni the Commission needs to fill the position. Rob reviewed the background on conservation commission composition in Albany and said that there although there was no statutory requirement that a planning board representative be included in conservation commission membership Albany has historically always had a planning board member representative on the commission. Peter was their designated representative. A brief discussion and review was made of a related NH statute and the NH Association of Conservation Commission handbook for who can serve on conservation commissions. Rob said that he has notified the Town Administrator and the Planning Board Chair that there was a vacancy and Sean Wadsworth has volunteered. The Albany BOS has asked for the Commission to approve the Sean as the replacement for Peter. Rob asked for a motion to approve Sean as the new conservation commission member representing the planning board. Mike made a motion to approve Sean as the new member and with a second the motion was approved 4-0.

Rob introduced Sarah Ashley Davis and Jake Davis from Littlefield Farm to explain their proposal to collaborate with the Kennett Middle School on an agricultural program using a section of the Littlefield Farm parcel in the fields. They indicated that there were three teachers very interested in adding such a program to their curriculum. Starting in the spring the students could plan seeds, grow seedlings, transplant seedlings, plant seeds directly, and possibly care for the plants periodically through the summer to return in the fall and harvest their crops. They indicated that there may be a possibility for inclusion with the Conway Summer Rec Programs. Sarah said that the school could provide a limited budget of \$200 to defray costs of seeds, row cover, drip irrigation, etc. The topic of liability was discussed with the conclusion that the school district would be covering the liability, but that would have to be confirmed with the school system. Wildflower harvesting or cut flower production was discussed. This program was discussed as a low budget project that would not involve town funds. Rob wondered if USVLT could possible help with funding sources if necessary. Tara mention contacting Johnny Seeds to find out if they were offering discounts or donations to school programs. She also mentioned Tin Mountain's Summer Camp Program and suggested that they might be interested in some type of involvement.

Rob asked Cathy if we needed to support this program idea with a motion. It was agreed, so a motion was made by Rob to support the efforts of Littlefield Farm in developing an agricultural program in association the Kennett Middle School staff. With a second from Mike the motion was approved 4-0.

Rob asked Jake and Sarah about the impact of the 10/30 flood on their crops. Jake indicated that although it was fast there was little damage to the fields however they did lose some crops to flood waters.

Rob asked if farming equipment could be secured in a small area for winter safety. Sean indicated that the wellhead needs to be locked and secured to prevent accidents or contamination problems. Rob noted a plan to screen the tile well section with shrubbery to hide the well from public sight.

Rob asked Jake or Sarah if they had any other issues to discuss. Jake suggested planning to improve natural permaculture and land improvements such as plantings to help eliminate poison ivy and help restore soils on the southeast corner of the field. Cathy mentioned that there had been some complaints regarding dogs and perhaps signage would help reduce problems regarding dog waste. William noted that USVLT had also had complaints regarding dog waste. William wondered if a volunteer could be found to patrol the trails for dog waste.

Rob asked if either Jake or Sarah had any issues with the MWV Radio Control Club (MWVRCC). No issues were reported. Sean asked about the WMNF helipad and if that could be used for trailhead parking. A brief review of trailhead parking and access issues was discussed, including background on the issue of access road construction.

Rob asked if members could review draft land use agreement with the MWVRCC for discussion at the next meeting. He noted that it is a small club that barely survives but they assist with maintaining open field sparing the Town expenses to have to provide for field mowing and brushing.

With no further business to address, Rob asked for a motion to adjourn. With a motion from Mike and a second from Cathy the vote was 4-0, and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.