

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 1st, 2018. 6:00 pm

Members present: Cathy Ryan, Cort Hansen, Alternates; Austen Bernier, Paul Brown. Absent: Mike Stewart, Sean Wadsworth

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Cathy asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes for the 4/3/18 meeting. Cathy noted that with the absence of both Mike and Sean that the alternate members Paul and Austen would be voting in their place. With no questions or comments received, Cathy made a motion to approve the 4/3/18 meeting minutes and with a second from Paul, a vote was taken and the 4/3/18 meeting minutes were approved 4-0.

The topic of dog waste in the Town Forest was discussed. Austen noted that additional bootleg signs have been placed by someone has placed by the F.S. steel gate entrance to the fields regarding dog waste. Cort had emailed 2 versions of dog waste signs for commission member review and said that he expects to have additional versions shortly that were specific to health warnings with universal signage regarding dog waste for further evaluation by the members. Once signage was agreed upon the commission may obtain some aluminum signs printed for posting at trailhead locations and by the cultivated sections of the fields. It was noted that caution should be used and there should not be too much signage.

Cort mentioned that he had contacted Dave Richardson of Grandview Farms to make sure the well cover had been secured. Dave confirmed that the well cover was locked with a combination lock that uses the same combination as the gate lock on the field.

Dave Richardson told Cort that Grandview was planning on expanding the area cultivated this year to the west and northwest sections of their portion of the fields. No change in the crop types are planned for this season. They had not begun to work the fields due wet and cold conditions.

Cort said that he had talked to Curtis Coleman about finishing the parking area. He told Curtis that the work cutting the last trees around the lot would be accomplished on the 5/5 Saturday work day and he would contact Curtis to confirm this once it was done. Curtis intends to complete the graveling of the parking area sometime in May, likely on a weekend. Cort discussed the possible need to place some barrier rocks to prevent vehicles from getting outside of the parking area and driving into the forest trails.

With Sean absent the discussion regarding “green burials” was deferred. Paul noted that the cemetery committee has been discussing the same topic.

Cathy noted the joint Board meeting with Albany Town Boards and the BOS scheduled for Wednesday May 9th. William Abbott from USVLT is on the agenda to their 2017 survey and analysis of the Upper Saco Valley Aquifer.

A brief discussion about replacing the missing full member was had. A review of the alternate positions and their seasonal attendance that was discussed at the previous month’s meeting was made. With Austen being gone all summer this year and Paul being gone all winter it was acknowledged that the two could be maintained as alternates, as opposed to one of them moving into the full member position, and then searching for a replacement full member in going forward. Members were asked to consider residents that may be interested in

volunteering for the position. Paul indicated he may have someone potentially interested and he would contact them to follow up.

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

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.