

# MEETING MINUTES

## ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Thursday, April 30th, 2020. 5:35 pm**  
**Meeting was held at the Albany Town Forest Field**

**Members present: Cathy Ryan, Cort Hansen, Sean Wadsworth Mike Steward and Kevin Tilton. Absent: Paul Brown – Alternate. Public: Jason Richardson, Paul Richardson**

The commission meet at the field area and invited the Richardson's to attend the meeting to detail their interest in expanding the area under cultivation by the Grandview Farm. The meeting came to order at 5:35 pm.

Grandview Farm would like to use some of the field area south of the drainage ditch in the section adjacent to Rt. 16. The Richardson explained why they wanted to expand into the new area. They are looking for about 2 acres of the portion on the south side of the drainage ditch. The Richardson's indicated that what they would like to do is use the new area to help rotate crops on their present parcel. Apparently, they believe about 1/3 of their designated portion of the field is poor soil, rocky and sandy. What they would like to do is to have some additional area to expand to in order to plant their poorest section with some green manure/cover crops that they can turn under and help improve the soil. Jason indicated that they would like to get a start on it once the ground dries out, but given the fact that this section in question hasn't been tilled in many years, they may have some difficulty getting all of it done this season. An inspection of the area showed that there were still some wet sections of that field and Paul said they intend to set back from the ditch line and use the highest section of the field to avoid the wet zones.

It was suggested that USVLT restrictions may impact their request as it relates to habitat or view impacts. Cort said he would contact USVLT for their opinion so that the topic could be addressed at the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> 2020.

The terms and length of the contract with Grandview were discussed. Jason said that a long term contract would be preferable should they opt to apply for any grant funding for irrigation purposes, etc. A renewal or replacement contract might be the best solution for this. Cathy has retrieved copies of the current contract.

With no further business to address and the meeting ended at approximately 6:15pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.