

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 16th, 2021. 6:00 pm

Meeting was held remotely using a Polycom2 Conference Calling System

Members present: Cort Hansen, Sean Wadsworth, Cathy Ryan, alternate. Via phone-remotely: Kevin Tilton, Mike Steward & Leah Valladares.

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:19 pm. Cathy read the declaration (order#12) related to public meetings during the current health crisis authorizing government boards to meet remotely. Cathy asked for a roll call vote of the members present.

Under new business Cathy asked for a motion to approve the minute of the 1/5/21 meeting. With no comments or discussion Cort made a motion to approve the minutes of the 1/5/21 meeting. With a second from Sean, a roll call vote was made by Cathy and by a 5-0 roll call vote the motion to approve the minutes of the 1/5/21 meeting was approved.

A discussion was had regarding the replacement of the Chair position for the Commission following Cathy's resignation last month as a full member. Kevin volunteered to serve for one year if he could work with other members while learning the position. Cathy made a motion to nominate Kevin to be Commission Chairman and with a second from Mike a 4-0-1 roll call vote was made to elect Kevin for the Chair position. Kevin abstained from the vote.

A conversation was made regarding the establishment of a Town Forest Land Use Policy. Leah had noted at last month's meeting that the policy was available on-line. Kevin then forwarded the link for the Town of Conway Special Event; Instructions and Definitions, to members via email to review and he thought that the 7 page application could be refined down to a more manageable policy since the Conway policy was very comprehensive covering many other uses. Cort said that he would work on a draft for review by members at a later meeting.

Sean discussed the GWP ordinance planning and noted that he has forwarded a draft copy of the poster that the GMCC has provided to assist in promoting support for a GWP ordinance. Sean said that he has spoken with Mark Dindorf of the Saco River Headwater Alliance and he had some questions as to how the State of NH may already be enforcing GWP regulations in the state. Sean said that he was going to follow up on those questions to confirm. Kevin pointed out that typically towns may establish more stringent regulations but they could not enact any regulation that lowers state policies or regulations. Sean noted that with the current Covid-19 challenges promotion and education about a GWP ordinance will be more difficult. Cathy noted that town meeting day for the voting on the warrant articles had been moved to the second Tuesday in June due to Covid. The meeting place is to be announced later. Voting for town offices would still be held in March however. Sean said that he welcomed thoughts and ideas on how best to start an outreach program for Albany.

Regarding boundary maintenance, Kevin said that the logging activity on a property adjacent to the Town Forest land on Bald Hill Road has been completed and he would inspect the forest boundary line there.

Regarding a new trail map, Kevin noted that Peter Howe was moving on from his USVLT land steward position, but that he would see what data the USVLT could have to use for an updated trail map.

A conversation was had about snow machine use of the Town Forest. Cort note the original intent for use by snow machines at the creation of the forest was to limit it to areas of historical use, the field areas only, and to restrict such use on the trail network. Conversation followed about presumed permission, posted or non-posted properties, etc. Access for the town forest property is limited to either the RR corridor trail or the Butternut Lane and Bob Morrell Drive neighborhoods. Cort noted that the only issue in the past originated from one of those two neighborhoods. Leah suggested that with the increased use of the fields that for safety reasons maybe posting the property could be a good idea.

With no other business to discuss and with no public comments, Cathy asked for a motion to adjourn. With a motion from Mike and with a second from Sean the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm after a 5-0 roll call vote.

The next scheduled meeting would be Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.