

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021. 6:00 pm

Meeting was held remotely using a Polycom2 Conference Calling System

Members present: Kevin Tilton, Cort Hansen, Cathy Ryan, alternate. Via phone-remotely: Leah Valadares (later arrival). Absent: Mike Steward, Sean Wadsworth.

Kevin called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and read the declaration (order#12) related to public meetings during the current health crisis authorizing government boards to meet remotely. Kevin asked for a roll call vote of the members present. Kevin noted that there were only 3 people present, all that was necessary for a quorum, but to do so would require Cathy to be approved for the evening as a voting member. Cort made a motion to make Cathy a full voting member for the evening. With a second from Kevin a vote was taken and with a 3-0 vote the motion was approved.

Under new business Kevin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2/16/21 meeting. With no comments or discussion, Cort made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2/16/21 meeting. With a second from Cathy, a roll call vote was made by Kevin and by a 3-0 roll call vote the motion to approve the minutes of the 2/16/21 meeting was approved.

Under new business a discussion was held regarding the Wetland Permit for the Tin Mountain Conservation Center boardwalk project at Chase Pond. Cathy distributed copies of the Expedited Minimum Impact Dredge and Fill Application that the Town had received. After some time spent reviewing the application Kevin asked for questions or comments. (Leah joined the meeting remotely at this time.) Commission members could see no issues with the project and regarded it as a minimal impact project as stated in the application. With no questions Kevin asked for a motion to approve the request for approval of the boardwalk project at Chase Pond. Cathy made the motion to approve, and with a second from Cort, and after a roll call vote of 4-0 the project was approved.

A brief 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 had 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 had tried to convert the pdf file to a doc. file and was not able to do so. Leah was able to solve the problem right away and provided a doc. file version of the Conway policy and emailed it to members immediately. Various aspects as what the members desired and how to amend it to our needs was made. It was suggested that members review it and make alterations and/or edits for discussion at the April meeting.

The farming agreements for the summer season came up and it was agreed that the farmers should be contacted prior to the April meeting to review the arrangements regarding the exchange of services for field use. It was noted that the Richardson/Grandview seven year lease agreement was redone in 2020 but they had not signed the new agreement yet. Cort said that he would contact the farmers to see if they had any issues to address and if they wanted to attend the April meeting. Also he would remind them that they need to have a current Certificate of Liability Insurance issued with the Town of Albany listed as also insured as one of the requirements of the lease agreements.

With Sean absent there was no discussion of the draft GWP ordinance it was suggested that we wait for next meeting.

Regarding boundary maintenance a short conversation was had.

A discussion about developing a Face Book page specific to the Conservation Commission was made. The advantages of having an independent site was agreed by all and, that the FB page could be shared with the Town's FB page, USVLT's, Tin Mountain's and other conservation oriented FB sites at the same time. This would allow policy and promotion of the commission's goals, rules and regulations, etc. to be more broadly distributed to the public. Kevin said that he was willing to tackle the project himself. Kevin made a motion to create a Town Conservation Commission FB page and with a second from Cathy the motion was approved 4-0.

A short conversation was made about the road access to the fields by the Saco District Ranger Station and the history behind the current access. Kevin offered some insights to the how the access existed and the potential for future changes in that area adjacent to the fields.

With no other business to discuss and with no public comments, Kevin asked for a motion to adjourn. With a motion from Cathy and with a second from Cort the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm after a 4-0 roll call vote.

The next scheduled meeting would be Tuesday, April 6th, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.