

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 4th, 2021. 6:00 pm

Meeting was held remotely using a Polycom2 Conference Calling System

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

Kevin called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. After reading 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.

Under new business Kevin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 4/6/21 meeting. With no comments or discussion, Mike made a motion to approve the minutes of the 4/6/21 meeting. With a second from Cort, a roll call vote was made by Kevin and by a 5-0 roll call vote the motion to approve the minutes of the 4/6/21 meeting was approved.

Under new business Kevin noted that all the farmer contracts have been signed and the certificates for Proof of Insurance have been provided.

Discussion on the draft Town Forest Use Policy followed and members talked about creating an abbreviated version for Albany with many willing to review the Conway policy and using what works best for Albany.

Kevin noted that he and Cort had met with Jeff Sires, the new Land Manager for the USVLT, that morning in the fields to inspect a potential culvert location on the ditch line between the two fields being used by the Grandview Farm. Jeff was going to first research the USVLT easement agreement to make sure that there are no issues preventing a culvert installation and then checking on what permitting requirements are necessary. Kevin and Jeff presumed that there would be a need for a NH DES permit, but since it is an agricultural use only, that the permitting process would be rather simple and fairly quick.

Kevin brought up the recent letter that Albany had received from Mark Dindorf of the Saco Headwaters Alliance (SHA), regarding interest in their Power Point presentation which SHA is using to educate local boards. The program runs 20 minutes and they are looking into the technical challenges to present the program via a Zoom meeting to Albany boards, perhaps jointly. Cathy is looking into the May calendar to see if the meeting room will be available on either a Monday or Tuesday evening, with the idea of inviting Mark to give his presentation.

The trail work day planned for Saturday May 8th at 9:00 am was discussed. The weather forecast for the weekend indicates that it may be raining and the consensus is that everyone would rather not work on a rainy day. A rain date of Sunday, May 16th was selected as a rain date in the event of rain on the 8th. Mike and Kevin noted that all the heavy cutting work has been completed by volunteers and that there was significant blow downs on the Twister and Uphill Both Way trails.

Under old business, no discussion was made on the draft Ground Water Protection ordinance. (From last month: Sean notes that he had forwarded an email on Monday 4/5 regarding registering for attendance at the NHDES 2021 Drinking Water Source Protection Virtual Conference on May 19 & 20th and suggested members should try and attend it.)

There was no discussion on the boundary maintenance plan. Kevin noted that Jeff had said that morning that the USVLT would be sending out requests to easement partners regarding annual inspections shortly.

Expanded trail mapping was discussed and Jeff from USVLT will assist in updating maps of the trail network. Mike indicated that at a recent NEMBA meeting the topic of a new trail on the south side of the Kancamagus Highway had been discussed. Mike suggested that having the proposed new trail laid out prior to the creation of a new map would be a good idea.

Kevin noted that Paul Brown had responded to a recent email and that only an outline for the Albany Town Forest history has been done. Kevin feels that a lot of history could be gained from deed records that he may be able to obtain from the survey work that had been done prior to the forest purchase.

With no other business to discuss and with no further public comments, Kevin asked for a motion to adjourn. With a motion from Mike and with a second from Cort the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm after a 5-0 roll call vote.

The next scheduled meeting would be Tuesday, June 1st, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.