

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 25th, 2021. 6:00 pm

Meeting was held remotely using a Polycom2 Conference Calling System

Members present: Kevin Tilton, Cort Hansen, Mike Steward, Sean Wadsworth, and Cathy Ryan, alternate. Absent; Leah Valladares. Public: Mark Dindorf; Executive Director Saco Headwaters Alliance, Rich Brenton; FB Environmental.

Kevin called the meeting to order at 6:03pm and introduced it as a working session and introduction to the Saco Headwaters Alliance (SHA) and aquifer protection.

Mark Dindorf from the SHA briefly introduced himself and then introduced Rich Brenton from FB Environmental who proceeded to show a Power Point program about “source water” including drift aquifers, public water systems, recent studies and the benefits of protecting “source waters” as it pertains to Albany. He explained the regulations that are related to water protection including the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (SDWA), and the NH DES’s Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau. The DES’S DWGB administers the federal regulations under the SDWA and any NH related regulations. Rich described the size of the Saco River headwaters, a good deal of it being in Albany, which in whole includes over 1500 miles of rivers and streams. A large stratified drift aquifer makes up nearly 11% of the Albany town area (8.4 sq. mi.). Albany has 10 wellhead protection areas identified in whole, or in part, within the town boundaries. He explained the different types of public water systems; community, non-transient/non-community, and transient/non-community. The last water assessment was completed in the early 2000’s with a Local Source Water Protection survey done in 2017. The 2017 study identified 13 potential contamination sources within Albany. Rich explained the advantages of identifying and protecting source waters as it relates to public health, economic and community benefits and the role of local government as stewards in GWP providing planning and zoning to regulate development, protection, and monitoring.

Mark introduced the SHA as established in 2019 to protect and conserve water resources in the Saco River watershed which covers over 1,300 square miles. The SHA was formed to help communities to address the growing threats and to access the resources for the region, to identify local clean water priorities, to provide guidance and leadership, and to partner on funding. He explained several projects that SHA is working on. Mark noted that there is an annual grant opportunity available to towns for Flood Plain Mapping with a June 1 deadline each year. He emphasized the advantages to educating the public in a cooperative manner to make the work on a GWP much easier.

Rich said that he would provide a link to the evening’s Power Point presentation for commission use.

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 Sean the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

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

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.