

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 5th, 5:30 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Jack Rose, Dick VanDyne, Cort Hansen, Josephine Howland, Paul Brown, Alternate. Public: Ed Morse.

Rob called the meeting to orders at 5:35 pm.

Rob shared the email he had received from Steve Knox indicating his resignation as an alternate to the Conservation Commission.

Paul Brown of Passaconaway Road joins the Conservation Commission as an alternate for the first time with this meeting. His appointment was approved by the Selectmen in January.

Dick made a motion to approve the 1/8/13 minutes. With the motion seconded, a 5-0 vote approved the minutes.

Rob brought up the recent meeting that Jack, Steve & Sarah Knox and he had attended with WM National Forest Supervisor Tom Wagner at the WMNF Forest Headquarters in Campton. Also in attendance was NH Executive Councilor Ray Burton. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss access issues in and around the WMNF District Station in Conway and to come up with a solution to the right-of-way access to the field portion of the property that did not interfere with traffic flow on Rt. 16 or at the Ranger Station. Both Supervisor Wagner and Councilor Burton were positive about finding a solution and funding for a road to provide public access to the field. The WMNF and NH DOT will meet to look at a solution and the WMNF will be sending a letter as a follow on the meeting to us shortly. Rob proposed that perhaps we can utilize a portion of the \$7400 grant we received recently to plant barrier rocks in the field area to restrict public parking to a limited area in the field.

Rob brought up the issue of an agreement with the NH Institute of Agriculture and Forestry (NHIAF) for haying and mowing the field on the Albany property. He showed a copy of an agreement that had been drawn up by the Albany Town Attorney. He covered the questions that had been asked of Suzanne Brown from the NHIAF about the extent of the agreement, terms, cost/yield analysis, etc. Discussion evolved around the advantages of a limited agreement as a good test of the Conservation Commission's association with NHIAF and without much of a downside to the Town. Everyone felt that by covering the cost of mowing for the Town and with unresolved access issues yet to be addressed an arrangement like this would be the best arrangement at the present time. Jack made a motion, which was seconded by Josephine, that we come to a 1 year agreement with NHIAF with the contract written by Town Counsel to include the option of renewal for 2 additional years should both parties agree. Dick brought up the narrowing the seasonal period of time the agreement covered. After some further discussion, it was agreed to make from March through October. A vote was taken and the motion was approved 5-0.

Rob showed the copy of the NHDAMF Organic Certification Program Landowner Statement that is part of the organic certification process. Rob suggested that Cort fill out the form and submit it to NHIAF.

Rob brought up the pending NH Senate bill regarding voting for members of Town Conservation Commissions. The Senate hearing date has been set for the morning of Wednesday 2/13. Who will attend

was discussed, most importantly, having a selectman attend made Jack's attendance required. Cort said he was willing to go if Rob was unable, and Dick said he could probably attend as well.

Rob reminded everyone that Town meeting was coming up soon on March 12th and we need to plan for it including what we should do for it, including writing a 2012 Conservation Commission Report for the Town Report. He thought we needed to list the achievements we had accomplished since January 2012. Rob said he would e-mail a draft copy and members could amend it as they thought necessary. Topics would include the completion of the purchase, logging operations, trail and parking improvements, grant awards and plans for 2013.

Rob said that he had discussed with William Abbott of USVLT what plans the Commission has for the recent grant award. These improvements include; parking improvements, trail signage, kiosk construction, seeding, etc. Rob said he would bring a copy of the grant proposal to the next meeting to review it with everyone.

Rob asked Paul if he would be interested in taking Steve's position on the agricultural sub-committee. Paul said he would and Dick said he would be happy to help Paul and Josephine said the same.

Dick suggested the Conservation Commission sponsor a competition open to the public to build bird houses for placement on the property. He suggested that the winners be awarded \$25 first place prizes. All felt that this was a good idea and Dick said he would work on the details.

Paul said he would look at a USFS kiosk to come up with a material list for building 2-3 units.

Rob said he would meet with Paul to discuss agricultural planning which might include William Abbott of USVLT.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.