

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 6th, 2015. 6:00 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Cort Hansen, Peter Carboni, Mike Steward. Absent: Jack Rose. Public: Steve Knox.

Rob called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and asked for comments on the minutes for the 9/8 meetings. With no comments made, Peter moved that the 9/8/15 meeting minute be accepted; with a second to the motion, the minutes were approved 4-0.

Rob said that he spoken with Jack and that he had an agreement prepared by Betsy McNaughton from NHFG between the Town and NHFG on the use of the former DOT site. Rob said that with Jack absent, discussion should wait on this topic until the November meeting.

A discussion on the work made by Rob and Cort followed. They had established 4 permanent markers in the Burton field to define the boundaries of two of the agricultural lots within the field. Pressure treated 10' 4X4' were dug in to separate the Dow lot from the second lot, while the airfield plot was shrunk to its former size. Work on the parking area just east of the town boundary on the Kancamagus was also accomplished with brushing and cutting of trees and stumping of the remaining root crowns. Stumps were disposed of near the former landing and brush was piled for future chipping. Curtis Coleman has indicated that the chipper time will be donated by Coleman Rentals. Rob mentioned that he had talked with William Abbott from USVLT and he indicated that there was no urgency to use up the remaining grant funds this year, and if monies were unspent, that they would carry over into 2016. Gravel and grade work would be completed later this fall as the construction season winds down for Coleman.

Rob said that Jack has a quote from Peter Howland complete the cutting on the eastern side of Ray Burton Memorial Field in the corner by Rt. 16 and the CVFD brick building near the Kennett Middle School for \$350. Rob asked Cort to contact Peter to confirm the area that this quotation would cover.

Dave and Paul Richardson from Grandview Farm arrived to discuss future leasing of a portion of the Burton field. Rob noted that USVLT has approved that the middle lot between the Dow lot and the airfield for agricultural lease. This and several other pieces of this area total approximately 12 acres, the largest one being the plot by the airfield. Various questions were answered about lease fee, water and power supply for the field, organic certification, equipment, etc. Rob said that the fee for the first season would be suspended in order that they save costs while improvement work progressed. The Richardson's indicated that they were ready to go forward. Rob asked for a motion to go forward with an agricultural lease for the Grandview Farm for the plots as approved by USVLT of approximately 12 acres. Cort moved that the Commission enter into an agreement with Grandview for those approved plots, with a second the motion was then approved 4-0. Rob asked for a motion giving him authority to sign a lease with Grandview Farm in order that they not have to wait until the November meeting date to begin their improvement work on the field. Cort made the motion, Peter seconded it and the motion was approved 4-0.

Rob told the members that this will mean that over one-half the field area will now be in agricultural use. He noted that he and Cort had met with an associate of Dow who was cultivating the field on Saturday the 3rd. They plan on cultivating weekly in order to try and suppress the quack grass before planting a cover crop this fall. Dow had doubled the size of his plot under cultivation and has told Rob that they were pleased with the crop production this summer.

There has been no update from Eversource yet on the work involved to bring power to the field. Eversource field representatives are apparently difficult to get appointments with as this has required over 90 days time thus far. The installation work is in association with a USVLT \$6000 grant which has been raised to help provide water and power to the agricultural field site. Rob said the commission will have to consider how power will be paid for, with perhaps power being billed to the commission and the cost being billed back to the farmers.

Rob noted that the recent mowing by Howland this summer was paid for out of Commission expense funds because the Forest Fund money is being held in a certificate of deposit and the penalty for withdrawal of those funds made it simpler to charge the mowing cost to the commission expense fund.

Rob said that Jack has contact state DOT personnel about driveway permits for the 2 parking areas along the Kancamagus Highway. Rob said that he would be meeting state DOT people at the November transportation meeting that will be held in Albany.

Mike asked about contacting Kim and Beth Thomas regarding getting their permission to cross their property with a trail to connect the Kancamagus town forest lot with the Bald Hill forest lot. Members felt that was a good idea and approved his contacting them regarding trail permission.

Rob asked for public comment, with no comments and with no further business to address, he moved to adjourn the meeting. With a second the motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.