

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 8th, 2015. 6:00 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Jack Rose, Cort Hansen, Dick Van Dyne (alternate), Peter Carboni Mike Steward. Public: Steve Knox.

Rob called the meeting to order at just after 6:00 pm and asked for comments on the minutes for the 8/18 meetings. With no comments made, Jack moved that the minutes meeting be accepted; with a second to the motion the minutes were approved 5-0.

Jack said that he spoken with Betsy McNaughton from NHFG about the status of the agreement between the Town and NHFG on the use of the former DOT site. Jack explained that she indicated that the agreement is still being processed through the NH AG's legal department.

Rob discussed the planned work by AJ Coleman & Sons for finishing the lot work he and Cort have started. An estimated \$2500 will allow for gravel to level and finish the surface, bark chips to dress the shoulders and perhaps some barrier rocks to restrict vehicles to the lot. Rob repeated what he had said last month, that Curtis had told him that work may not occur until the construction season winds down in late fall.

Jack brought up having 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. Jack said he would contact Peter to confirm a cost for this work.

Rob discussed his meeting with Olaf Ekbergh of the MWV Radio Control Club the prior Sunday. Ekbergh explained the club's affiliation with the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). As a sanctioned member of the AMA the club receives qualifies for insurance due to club safety procedures and the design features of the airfield which includes multiple fencing for restricting access, etc. Ekbergh also indicate that paying membership is less that Rob had originally been told. As a result the club may alter some of its mowing in order to save expenses. Rob told Ekbergh that an agreement for use of the field would shortly be forwarded to the club.

Rob noted that he has recently talked with Dave Richardson of Grand View Farm and that the Richardson's would be providing a written proposal for the October meeting for use of up to 25 acres of the field. The cost of tilling and preparing the field for cultivation use was a concern of the family.

There has been no update from Eversource yet on the work involved to bring power to the field. This work is in association with a USVLT \$6000 grant which has been raised to help provide water and power to the agricultural field site.

Colton Dow has been selling pumpkins from the field at the North Conway Farmers Market and at his farm stand according to Rob who met him at the Farmers Market recently.

Cort and Rob met with Don Johnson of Forest Land Improvement the firm that has done the forest management plan for the Town Forest. Cort was following up on last month's discussion about possibly harvesting timber from the Bald Hill parcel pending planned road work next year. Don indicated that there was between \$5-8K worth of timber on the parcel depending on the timber market at time of harvest. He felt that unless money was needed that the potential aesthetic damage would not be worth the income yield. He noted that harvesting work could be done in either summer or winter, but that a winter harvest would be best for minimizing ground dis-

turbance, while it would initially appear very ugly with the slash on top of the snow. It would likely draw comments as a result. Don thought that regardless of season the size of the equipment for this type of harvesting would not necessarily limit the timing of any harvest, although winter is generally felt to be the best season to haul on roads. The two remaining uncut parcels were discussed; the corner of Routes 16 & 112 by the USFS Saco District office, and the portion of land left behind and west of the ski jump on Rt. 112. Don said the site by the Saco District office was highly visible and wet as well. He felt any cutting there would generate a lot of comment due to its location. The ski jump site is very steep and wet and Don said any cutting there would be very challenging and would have to be timed precisely to avoid big water problems there.

Dick provided some paperwork that he has been holding. He is planning on moving out of Albany shortly and wanted to pass along any related material pertinent to conservation commission work. Dick, who is currently the commission alternate, has served Albany on the forest project and commission as both a member and alternate over the years beginning with the initial acquisition efforts over 7 years ago. He expressed his appreciation and a sense of reward having worked with the commission over the years. The commission members thanked him for his many years of service.

Cort provided a draft copy of the agreement with the MWV Radio Control Club and asked for comments. Rob said that the draft should be sent to William at USVLT prior to having it reviewed by Albany Town counsel.

Rob asked Mike about any trail work updates. Mike said that he has recently completed a new short piece of single track bike trail on the western end of the forest all within the 'town center' site. This single track ties in with the western end of the Davis Farm trail and will allow for additional loop ride options on the western end of the forest. Mike indicated that all the trails are in good condition presently, he having recently removed some blow down last month. Mike is now a member of the commission, his appointment was approved last month by Selectmen to replace Paul Brown who stepped down in July.

Jack asked about the project to install a town forest sign to be located on Rt. 16 just south of the Kennett Middle School and adjacent to the CVFD brick building. USVLT is supportive of this project in association with the development of a trail that skirts the property edge and crosses the brook on the granite slab bridge to reach the fields on the east side. USVLT has a donor who is willing to support such a project Rob is hopeful that USVLT will assist with this project.

Dick noted that perhaps mowing work might be a good trade for in-kind work by the MWVRC, and that mowing the agricultural lot perimeters near the airfield would be helpful to the commission. Dick supported the recent discussion to find a replacement alternate by asking Beth Thomas if, she or her husband, would be interested. She has been approached before and has indicated a possible interest. Jack said that they have been traveling and have been reluctant to get involved due to time constraints due to traveling but that he would inquire again.

Dick reiterated his earlier remarks, thanking commission members for the opportunity to do commission work for the Town. Members returned the thanks and praise for Dick's contributions over the years.

With no further business to discuss and with no public comment, Jack moved to adjourn the meeting. With a second, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.