

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 3rd, 5:30 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Jack Rose, Dick VanDyne, Cort Hansen, Josephine Howland, Steve Knox Alternate.

Rob called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Jack administered the oath of office for commission members Rob, Josephine and Cort. Jack, Dick and Steve, since they already hold town office, had already taken their oaths. Jack took original signed copies to give to Kathy Vizard for town records.

Jack made a motion to approve the minutes of the 3/6/12 meeting, Josephine seconded the motion and the minutes were approved 5-0.

The commission nominated officers for the next year. Jack made a motion to select Rob as chairman, Jack as vice-chair and Cort as secretary. Josephine seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the officers were approved 5-0. Dick questioned the statutory requirement for a treasurer position and the responsibilities included. It was agreed to have Rob check with Town Counsel to find out the statutory requirements and inform the commission at the next meeting.

Rob reviewed his meeting with Don Johnson of Forest Land Improvement (FLI) and the Forest Management Plan (FMP) they have prepared for the Town along with the current status of the first timber harvest planning. Timber harvesting will start shortly after the necessary regulations have been met and Intent to Cut paperwork has been filed with the respective town offices.

A discussion began on how TPL is to be reimbursed as per the sales agreement with Albany, and whether Don Johnson should pay them directly from the timber harvest proceeds. Steve had some concerns about that, and asked that Rob check with town counsel if that was the correct way to do it.

The need to secure any open access to the property as soon as possible was discussed. Members agreed the the primary need was to rebuild the gate on the Davis Farm portion of the property at the site of the proposed timber landing just east of the ski jump on the north side of Rt 112. The cable closure, which had been there for some time, has been removed recently. Cort thought he may be able to obtain used hardware from the Forest Service that could be used to make timber gates. Rob showed a copy of a sign he proposed the commission install to inform visitors to the property of their responsibility in regards to trash removal, fire restrictions and no motorized vehicle restrictions. He suggested we post these signs at the common entry areas along Rt. 112, behind the Ranger Station, at the Davis Farm entrance, and on Bald Hill Road. These signs will be temporary until permanent metal signs can be purchased.

Rob brought up Albany's membership in the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) a state-wide association of conservation commissions that hosted training sessions for CC, etc. A motion was made and approved 5-0 to join the NHACC.

Rob mentioned the invitation list that Greg from the Trust for Public Lands was working on for their planned reception on May 5th and asked members for additional suggestions. Rob further explained that the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust was planning on hosting a reception on the property on May

12th. They wanted to have written permission for their meeting there signed by the Albany Selectmen. Rob said that he would facilitate this request.

It was agreed by the commission members to meet and walk the property on Saturday, April 14th at 10:00 am.

Cort informed the commission on his discussion with Russ Seybold of the Conway Scenic RR and the status of the restoration of the riverbank area adjacent to the Swift River RR trestle. The contractor working on that project was waiting for drier, warmer weather in order to till and remove topsoil and relocate to the restored riverbank. Reseeding of that portion of the field, and restoring the road to the trestle would be done at the conclusion of this project. Cort had asked Russ if they could fill and grade the road bed in the area of the Ranger Station at the same time. Russ said he would review this with the contractor.

A discussion was held regarding the agricultural use of the fields, soil restoration, potential income that might be achieved from haying, etc. According to the UNH Agricultural Extension Agent there will be some work required in order to do so. Perhaps the agent can attend a future meeting to help explain the best means to do accomplish this goal.

The plan to use the property for the Albany Town Picnic on July 21st this summer was brought up. Tent rental, porta-potty's, table and chairs were discussed. The committee that normally plans this party will be involved and Cort was requested to contact Kathy Carrier regarding planning for this activity.

Steve suggested with all these activities we establish a policy regarding group use of the Town Forest.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and a vote was taken and the motion was approved 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Cort Hansen, Board Secretary.