

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 10th , 5:30 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Jack Rose Dick VanDyne, Josephine Howland, Steve Knox Alternate, absent Cort Hansen. Public: William Abbott – Upper Saco Valley Land Trust

Rob called the meeting to orders at 5:45 pm.

The board approved minutes of the 6/12/12 meeting.

Discussion began on how the logging is progressing. Rob is waiting to hear from Kathy Vizard, Administrative Assistant to the Albany Selectmen on how much balance remains before the Town can reimburse the Trust for Public Lands. Rob mentioned that the CC will have to have a public hearing before we can expend the funds. He discussed the difference between the types of CC funds.

The board discussed with William Abbott the draft management plan for the Town Forest. Topics included trail network, bridges, parking and access points. Rob mentioned that he was hoping to get some help from Road Agent Curtis Coleman on the landing area and it's conversation to a small parking area. Concerns were raised about parking areas and the problem of people using them to camp in them overnight as well as within the forest. Jack asked about trails on the south side of the Kancamagus. It was agreed to set the goal of posting signs (no camping, carry-in/carry-out) at access points and pullovers by Labor Day and provide a rough trail map for visitors.

Mowing of the fields; Rob plans on talking to Justin Hussey about mowing and/or farming the open fields. Peter Howland has been very interested in this as well. Steve also mentioned Keith Croto.

Timber management; Don Johnson of FLI is on vacation. There will still be further cutting planned for this fall once the ground dries more. There will be another \$20,000 in income remaining from cutting done earlier this spring and perhaps another \$4,000 cutting by the Forest Service property at the junction by RT 16 and RT 112 and on the south side of the Kancamagus around the ski jump once the ground dries out this fall. Jack hopes that there will be enough money from the timber cut this fall to pay for the field mowing.

Discussion about forest access sites; Rob wondered if the school district could help with access from Rt. 16 from the playing fields behind Kennett Middle School. Steve mentioned talking with USFS Forest Supervisor Tom Wagner about access through USFS property with parking on town property. Rob brought up the potential problems associated with keeping overnight use out of the forest and that the town will not have a person responsible for opening and closing a gate or clearing out off-road parking areas or roads. Steve mentioned that if the USFS would allow us to use that entrance, he would be more comfortable with that access rather than further west down the Kancamagus. It was suggested to invite USFS District Ranger Mike Martin to a CC meeting to discuss access.

Steve asked Jack if the Carroll County Sheriff Department had a specific patrol schedule and could it be reviewed to add the forest.

Discussion about sub-committees; Cort – Trails, Access, Signage; Jack – Town Center; Steve – Agriculture; Dick – Financial Planning.

Steve mentioned that when he walked the land recently he noticed a lot of erosion the result of tropical storm Irene last August.

The next meeting was determined to be Tuesday, August 7th at 5:30 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn and the meeting ended.

Josephine Howland, Acting Board Secretary.