

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 4th , 5:30 pm

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

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

The public meeting portion of the agenda was opened for public comment with Rob explaining the history and the background on the payment to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) for the purchase of the Kennett property. The \$45,000.00 payment would be made to repay TPL for their interest free loan to the Town of Albany for the purchase of the land. Originally written at \$49,000, TPL had discounted the loan by \$4,000.00 due to the diminished timber revenue due to market conditions. No public was present for comments or questions but the opportunity was made available for public input at this time.

Rob asked for a motion to repay TPL for their \$45K loan. Jack made the motion and Dick seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion approved 5-0.

Rob noted that Albany had just been notified by the state that the Town held the record size Sumac tree. It was not specific as to where this record tree stands. Further research on this would be required.

Jack made a motion and Josephine seconded the motion to accept minutes of the 8/7 Conservation Commission meeting.

Rob told the commission that further cutting would take place on the Town Forest property once timber harvest conditions permitted. He indicated that Garland Lumber Co. would be the operator on the second harvest this season.

Steve recommended that future timber harvesting be scheduled to optimize timber market conditions to yield the best price.

Rob proposed that Albany Timber Yield Taxes from the Town Forest as well as from private cutting operations be dedicated to a Forest Conservation Fund and that the CC build up a reserve in this fund for future land conservation purchases, etc. The pros and cons of this proposal were discussed.

A discussion on agricultural use of the field was started with Steve indicating that Todd Marshall was still interested in using the field but Marshall had told Steve that corn was not likely only hay. The size of the field was agreed to be between 45-46 acres in size with a 6-7 acre island of scrub and small trees in the NW corner. Steve said he had a copy of the soils map that he could provide Rob to scan and email copies to CC members. Rob wondered if the Extension Service may already have a digital copy that could be provided to the CC that we could use. Steve mentioned that he had contacted, and left a message, with Justin Hussey regarding using the property for agricultural purposes.

Rob brought up brush mowing and suggested, in order to save at least \$1600-\$1800.00, skipping brush mowing this year might be a good decision. He felt that no harm would come from skipping mowing this year.

Rob suggested that the CC get together and walk the property in order to plan for a trail network. A date for a trail day was discussed, with either 2 pm. Monday 9/10 or Monday 9/17 proposed. Cort would email members for interest and availability. Rob said that once the trail network was determined, USVLT could use their GPS to input data and overlay the trail network onto maps.

Steve brought up the agricultural topic again and said that after the recent meeting with Bill Lord, NH Cooperative Extension agent, that Lord had told him that regarding community supported agriculture, the best method was to find an individual to manage the property, lease the land to him responsible for handling operations and selling shares, etc. This would be another potential income source for the CC.

Rob reminded the CC about the annual forum by the NH Association of Conservation Commissions scheduled in November and referred them to the web address; www.info@nhacc.org for further information.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 2nd at 5:30 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn and the meeting closed at 6:20 pm.

Cort Hansen, Board Secretary.