

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 3rd, 2017. 6:00 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Cathy Ryan, Mike Stewart, Cort Hansen, Paul Brown Alternate.

Absent: Peter Carboni, & Austen Bernier Alternate.

Rob called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Rob noted that regular member Peter Carboni was absent and in his place Alternate Paul Brown would be voting for the evening. He asked for a motion to make Paul a voting member for this meeting. With a motion and a second, Paul was approved to vote in place of Peter for the meeting 5-0.

Rob asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes for the 9/12/17 meeting. With no questions or comments, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the 9/12/17 meeting minutes was made by Mike and seconded by Paul. With a vote, the 9/12 meeting minutes were approved 5-0.

Rob said the farmers copies of the Agricultural Management Contract sent out after the 9/12 meeting had not yet been returned to the Town.

Rob showed a photo of the Littlefield Farm display has at the 2017 Fryeburg Fair Agricultural Pavilion.

It was noted that field brush mowing by Littlefield Farm had started and the southeast corner of the field had been recently mowed.

The 11/4/17 meeting date for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions was discussed. Rob said that anyone interested in attending would have their registration fees paid by the Commission.

Rob suggested to the members that surplus funding remaining in the Conservation Commission budget be transferred at the end of the fiscal year to the Town Conservation Fund with the approval of voters. Cathy said that the Conservation Fund (CF) may have to be re-authorized by at the March 2018 Town meeting. Rob explained the value of the CF and how other towns build and use their CF reserves for land purchases and forest improvements, etc. Rob asked Cathy to write a warrant article for presentation at the March meeting to ask that surplus fund from the operating CC budget be transferred to the CF each year.

Rob said the only two issues prior to the March 2018 meeting would be the CC operating budget for the 2018 fiscal year and the potential re-authorizing of the town CF. Cathy said that the 2nd week of February would be the deadline for inclusion of any warrant articles for the March meeting.

Rob noted that there was no news on the Schurman property, the former campground on the west end of the Forest property on the Swift River. Rob said that after the 9/12 meeting he had no word from the USVLT. If USVLT cannot help now Rob said he'd contact the Trust for Public Land (TPL) soon. Rob said it was vital that we find a partner to help facilitate any land purchase.

Mike noted that NEMBA is shortly going to purchase a self-propelled wheelbarrow for use on the new trail network they are building on the south side of the Kanc. This will allow them to haul material to the section of trails that will require fill or drainage materials.

Strategic planning – Rob noted potential purchase of the Schurman property.

Cathy brought up other responsibilities of conservation commissions such as inventories of town natural or water resources. Cathy wondered about the costs associated with these inventories. Rob noted that these inventories seldom change, that they are very static and that the commission should review the inventories that the town already has paid for such as the 1991 Albany Water Resource Management Protection Plan, the 2011 USVLT Resource Inventory and a UNH Resource inventory, date unknown before starting any further inventories. Once the earlier studies have been reviewed, then the CC could see if North Country Council could help us out by updating some of the existing plans, etc. Cathy said one of her dreams as a selectman was to compile a check list that would assist new selectmen in their introduction to their responsibilities. A similar list could be made for CC members. Rob noted that the most comprehensive document for CC members is the NHACC Guidebook which is free town CC members. Cathy asked about Planning Board (PB) interface with the CC regarding wetland review. Rob noted that the primary agency responsible for wetland permitting is NH DES who has the sole authority and expertise for wetland permitting. Cathy noted that because the CC is local they may have a better handle on local wetland property issues. Rob said that Peter is the town PB representative on the CC and he would be the best person to ask about how the CC might be involved with some PB requests regarding wetlands.

With no further business to address, Rob asked for a motion to adjourn. With a motion and a second the vote was 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.