

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 6th, 2018. 6:00 pm

Members present: Cathy Ryan, Cort Hansen, Mike Stewart, Sean Wadsworth, Austen Bernier Alternate. Absent: Paul Brown Alternate.

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

Cathy asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes for the 2/6/18 meeting. With no questions or comments, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the 2/6/18 meeting minutes was made by Austen and with a second a vote was taken, the 2/6/18 meeting minutes were approved 5-0.

Cathy indicated that there was no new correspondence to review.

Cathy handed out copies of text from the NH Municipal Association's publication "Knowing Your Territory" which covered NH Conservation Commission's power and duties with related State statutes that apply to gifts, property purchases, optional powers, establishment, member removal and finances. Cathy suggested that members review the copy for informational purposes. Cathy said that the Town would renew the NHACC membership. Cort said that he receives regular emails from the NHACC regarding conservation issues and reporting on legislation before the NH Legislature and perhaps we could add member email addresses to their mailing list so that all the members will receive the monthly newsletter.

Cort said that William Abbott had dropped copies of 2 studies that the USVLT has been working on. The Upper Saco Valley Aquifer Potential Contamination Source Survey and an Upper Saco Valley Local Ground Water Protection Ordinance Review. He would like to present these reports to the Commission members along with other Albany boards including the BOS and the Planning Board at a future date. Cathy suggested that there will be a May joint meeting at which time it may be a good opportunity to have William attend for his presentation. Cort said he will inform William of the May 9th date.

The topic of dogs and dog waste came up for discussion. Cathy said that the town has had 4 recent complaints regarding dogs. In particular the issue of dogs without restraints in the field area was discussed. To what degree wording could promote better behavior by dog owners in the Town Forest and how effect requesting dog waste be removed from the trails and fields was discussed. The Littlefield farmers had some suggestions as to signage last summer and Cathy said she could follow-up on that wording. Cort said that he had some international symbol signage that may be applicable for use with the dog signage. It was agreed that professional metal signage similar to the Albany Town Forest signs "No Camping or Fires" would be the preferred model and that the perhaps signage may carry 2 separate messages; one message regarding staying out of cultivated areas, and the second regarding; dogs on leashes/dog waste removal, be placed on permanent posts at both trailheads and in the fields.

Cort said that he has had a report about a leaning hazard tree on the Davis Farm Trail just east of the junction with the Crossover Trail. Mike said he would investigate the report.

Mike said that the NEMBA organization has set a trail work day for Sunday June 17th for work on the new trail project on the south side of the Kancamagus. NEMBA will be placing donated gravel and materials on the bottom section of that new trail using textile materials to maintain good drainage and eliminate mud issues using best management practices. Mike said NEMBA volunteers will also include Albany Town Forest Trail work on their list of trail work done each week under their TNTW evenings (Tuesday Night Trail Work).

Cathy suggested that the members look to the list of projects Rob noted at the February meeting for Strategic Planning. Most importantly, planning for possible purchase of the former campground property on the north-western end of the Town Forest was one topic. It was agreed that the commission should contact the owners of the property to discuss future interests in the property. Sean asked for further background information on the Bald Hill property which related to the exchange of that property for other property for conservation purposes if needed which had been discussed at the February meeting. Mike asked about the ski jump property and who owned it the Town of Conway or the Conway School District regarding its use as a potential ROW for future trail development on the southeast side of the Kancamagus. It is owned by the school.

Sean mentioned the potential use of Town property for “green burials” noting that NH had only one green burial cemetery in the entire state. Cathy suggested we discuss this with the Cemetery Committee. Sean said that he will follow up with local authority Julie Lanoie for further information.

Cathy said the question as to how secure the well head cap was fastened was asked recently at Town Hall. Cort said he would contact Grandview Farm to see what needs to be done to secure the cap.

Austen said that he will be working out-of-town for the months of June through October and will probably miss meeting during that period. Cathy asked members to consider suggestions for a replacement person for filling the full member position left by Rob’s resignation. Cathy will continue to serve as acting chairman for the present time.

With no further business to address, Cathy asked for a motion to adjourn. With a motion from Mike and a second from Sean the vote was 5-0, and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.