

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 3rd, 2018. 6:00 pm

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

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Cathy asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes for the 6/5/18 meeting. With no questions or comments received, Cathy moved to approve the 6/5/18 meeting minutes. With a motion from Sean and a second from Mike, a vote was taken and the 6/5/18 meeting minutes were approved 5-0.

Cathy reviewed correspondence she had received from Sarah Ashley of Littlefield Farm regarding dog signage in the field. Sarah had acknowledged Cathy's email noting that dog signage had been ordered for the fields. USVLT's Erika Rowland had sent Cathy a note regarding the new USVLT signs that they want to post on the Town Forest. Erika said that she would contact Cathy about when to pick up the signs.

Cort reviewed the status of the sign orders for the fields with the dog waste signs expected to arrive soon and the 'no dog agricultural zone' signs shortly after. A discussion of post size, height and material was made with how to fasten the signs to the post. He had spoke with Dave Richardson of Grandview Farm regarding location and Dave indicated that posts at the ends of the row may have to be regularly moved due to their close proximity to the road that crosses their parcel. The idea of used PVC pipe dug flush with the ground in order to be able to lift posts out for seasonal plowing was discussed. Paul mentioned that with aluminum signs, screws used should be aluminum which he happened to have a quantity available for use.

Cathy noted the parking lot at the Crossover Trailhead was completed. Cort mentioned that now the lot was finished we should put up an Albany Town Forest sign. Discussion evolved around the type of sign, size, sign style and sign location. Cort showed sample paper copies of 2 different sign styles that he would like to consider using. The commission selected their choice of the two. Paul indicated that he has some pine slab lumber that he would be willing to cut to size. Cort will provide Paul with the required dimensions and once Paul has finished it then Cort will rout and paint the sign. Other than the posts required all materials and labor will be donated. Cort added that with the lot finished a trailhead sign should also be placed near the gate to indicate it is the Crossover Trail with distances and arrows indicating the Davis Farm and Swift River Trails access via the Crossover Trail.

Sean reviewed his recent visit to the Bald Hill property looking into the potential for as a "green burial site". He had found it to be rocky but he said he would like to talk to someone who might know more about soil types. Cort suggested the USDA Carroll County Soils agency may have the most information on soils type and location. Paul said that the Albany Cemetery Trustees have discussed the topic of green burials. Sean said he would like to meet with the Cemetery Trustees to discuss the topic.

Paul said that he has been doing web research on the Town Forest for the website and it is a work in progress.

Cathy noted that there has been some interest regarding the former campground property on the west end of the town forest. There have been some inquiries made as to the potential re-opening of the property as a campground. Cort said he would contact USVLT regarding this information. Sean said he would check the Albany Zoning Ordinances regarding establishment of campgrounds.

Mike reviewed the NEMBA work day on 6/17 which involved around 10 NEMBA volunteers who worked on improving the steep, cross slope section of trail on the south side of the Kancamangus adjacent to the Crossover Trailhead. He indicated that trail work continues on construction of that new trail weekly.

Under other business, Cort noted that with his recent conversation with Dave Richardson, Grandview has acquired a new drip irrigation system that utilizes a 3" diameter pump line from the dug well. During the recent dry spell they had pumped the well beyond its recovery ability while irrigating their entire field area. Dave said the well was able to recover within a few hours but that they may have to zone their field into 2 sections to prevent that from occurring again.

The next ACC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 8/7/18 at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to address and with no public comments, Cathy asked for a motion to adjourn. With a motion from Sean and a second from Mike the vote was 5-0, and the meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.