

# MEETING MINUTES

## ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 5th, 2018. 6:00 pm

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

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm.

Cathy asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes for the 5/1/18 meeting. With no questions or comments received, Cathy moved to approve the 5/1/18 meeting minutes. A vote was taken and the 5/1/18 meeting minutes were approved 3-0.

Cathy said that she would like to relinquish the position of Commission Chair before September. She indicated that she would consider a co-chair position.

Cathy said she would like to thank all the volunteers who turned out for the 5/5/18 volunteer trail day. All the Town Forest trails were covered and the parking area at the Crossover Trail head was worked on in preparation for the lot improvement scheduled for later this summer. Cort said that in his last conversation with Curtis Coleman, Curtis was planning on doing the project shortly during a weekend period. Cort said that he was checking the lot periodically to see if the work had been started and offered to Curtis that he would be happy to meet with him should he have any questions.

A discussion about camping on the Town Forest was made. The CC Sheriff has reported a camper parked in the Crossover Trail head lot. Cort noted that the Town has adopted a no camping/no fires policy based on NH RSA 41:11a which is posted on the signs at the entrance to both the Crossover trail head and the fields. This ordinance was approved by the BOS after a public meeting but Cort could not recall what year but he was thinking either in 2012 or 2013. Cort also said he has additional signs for use whenever we establish another trail head parking area at the west edge of the Town Forest.

Cathy noted that she had received an email from Sarah Ashley of Littlefield Farm updating the status of their plans for summer 2018 and indicated that the Kennett Middle School program that she has been working with is going well with good participation from the teachers and students there. Cathy read aloud from her email Sarah's comments. Sarah noted that there have been some issues with dogs in the agricultural zones in the fields that have been creating problems for the farmers. Cathy replied to Sarah's email that the Commission is addressing this currently with by establishing signs requesting dogs stay off the planted areas. Sarah had replied her appreciation for ACC support with this issue.

The topic of what sign type and what wording would be best to address dogs and dog waste was then discussed. Cort showed several copies of signs that he had copied off the internet. Members discussed the selection available and choose 2 versions. One was a "*Please be a good neighbor – Clean up after your dog*" sign. The second one read; "*NOTICE – No Dog Zone*". The members discussed if the second one could be customized to add an additional line: "*Agricultural Zone*". Cort will seek prices for both versions with the custom line added to the second one and will confirm with members before ordering. Cathy made a motion that Cort go forward with ordering signs for the fields and with a second from Sean the motion was passed 3-0. Cort will follow up with members prior to ordering and he will check with Kathy Golding before placing any orders to confirm the proper process for purchases, etc.

Sean reviewed his recent attendance at a local “Green Burial” Program and showed a brochure explaining the practice. He mentioned that the Albany Cemetary Committee was also reviewing the same topic.

The topic of the sale of the former campground property on the west end of the Town Forest was discussed. Cort noted that there had been conversations with USVLT regarding the property last year and that the USVLT was financially tight with the purchases of the Pine Hill property in Conway and the Kennett property next to Tin Mountain. They indicated an interest in possible involvement down the road. Cort said that he would attempt to contact the family to see what their time line was regarding sale of the property.

Sean mentioned that the Albany Planning Board is looking toward reviewing their current regulations on subdivision development.

Sean noted the recent review that was held with the joint Albany Boards and the USVLT over their 2017 Local Ground Water Protection Review report last month. The issue of “stratified drift” and Albany wetland inventories was discussed. It was agreed that the Commission needs to review what studies are on file in Town Hall. Sean said that he would look into doing this.

Cathy noted that NEMBA would be doing a volunteer work day on Sunday 6/17 at 8:00 am on the Kanc.

The next ACC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 7/3/18 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 Cort and a second from Sean the vote was 3-0, and the meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.