

# MEETING MINUTES

## ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 7th, 2018. 6:00 pm

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

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Cathy noted that Sean, Austen and Paul would not be in attendance. She mentioned that with Sean, Austen and Paul absent there was still a quorum present.

Cathy noted that the new signs for the fields had arrived. A discussion proceeded about purchasing 4"x4" PT posts. Cort said he would determine the post length required and how many posts would be needed and he would purchase the necessary quantity, cut them to size, and once finished, they could then be placed. Some of the posts would be placed in the ground inside PVC drain pipe as discussed last month for easy removal by farmers when using equipment when cultivating the fields, etc. adjacent to their plots. The PVC pipe needs will be calculated and purchased at the same time.

The issue of a combination lock for the gate at the Crossover trailhead was made. Mike said he would obtain a new combination lock and see about matching the new lock combination to the current lock on the gate by the Saco District Station.

Cort relayed the issue of the dry well problem as recently reported by Dave Richardson of Grandview Farm. Grandview Farm has recently installed an irrigation system to supply their entire area under cultivation on one zone. The new system uses a 3" sump hose. The new system had exhausted the standing water in the well and exceeded its' recovery rate. Dave said they would perhaps try zoning their system and until then, Grandview was using the Swift River for their irrigation needs. Dave asked if the ACC would consider going in 50/50 on the cost of installation of a 100' deep gravel pack well with an estimated cost of between \$4-5,000. Cort said he had contacted William at USVLT to see if there was any potential grant money available to assist with this. William said at the present time there was no funding available. Cort said he had been checking on other potential solutions either digging the well tile sections deeper, or driving a well point further down inside the existing well tile. Either are workable solutions but no cost estimates were made. Cort felt that given the record dry July, this problem was not at all surprising with monthly rainfall at least 5" below normal. Part of the problem was the storage demand created by a 3" sump pump. For now it was determined to hold off on any fix since the river was providing the water needs for Grandview.

Mike said that NEMBA volunteers have essentially completed the new trail loop and that only some final finish work needs to be accomplished. He indicated that on the major side hill trail project site, the water seep has been eliminated and he had dug and filled holes with crushed stone for additional drainage. Cort said that once the trail was finished it could be blazed and signed. He suggested Mike select a name for the trail and Cort would make a sign. Blazing of the new trail along with the repainting the blazes on the existing trails can be done later this fall.

Cort said that Mike and a NEMBA volunteer have removed several recent blowdowns on the trail network. He said that there have been frequent blowdowns this summer the result of either wind storm or dry soil conditions. Several of these blowdowns have been fairly large trees. Mike said he thought some of the blowdowns are the result of individual trees weakened by the selective thinning that was done many years ago.

In other business, Cathy reported that on Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00pm the Albany BOS is having a meeting to review their Emergency Management Plan (EMP). The EMP is a Federal Emergency Management Agency mandated plan that is required to be reviewed periodically by the community. Cathy said the town is reimbursed based on meeting attendance, so the more people who are present on the 23<sup>rd</sup> will help the town offset the costs of preparing the EMP.

The next ACC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 9/4/18 at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to address and with no public comments a motion to adjourn was made by Mike and with a second from Cathy the vote was 3-0, and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.