

# MEETING MINUTES

## ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. 6:00 pm

**Members present: Cathy Ryan, Cort Hansen, Sean Wadsworth, Kevin Tilton. Absent: Member, Mike Stewart, & Paul Brown – Alternate. Public: Jake Davis – Littlefield Farm.**

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Under new business Cathy began with the discussion to approve the minutes for the 3/5/19 meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sean and with a second from Cort the minutes for the 3/5/19 meeting were approved 4-0.

Cathy noted that Mike Stewart was absent and excused for this month's meeting. She also welcomed new member Kevin Tilton.

An invitation had been extended to the farmers on the Town Forest to attend the meeting and Jake Davis from Littlefield Farm was introduced and asked for comments or questions regarding the farming of the field. Jake noted that there was not going to be any significant changes in their farming plan. He noted that they would be washing their produce in the fields using the on-site well this summer. He told the commission that they were working with Kennett High School on an agricultural program that would use a one acre dedicated area for the program which would also use the produce grown there in the food service program in the SAU 9 system. The program was being taught by Kennett staffer Paul Cail. Jake expressed his appreciation to Albany for the use of the fields noting that they were much more fertile and sunny than the fields that Littlefield farm had been previously using and their yields were proving it.

Cathy noted that there was no correspondence this month.

Cort inquired about the status of the Town's Conservation Fund account and if the account's activity status issue had been resolved yet.

Sean noted that he had attended the GMCG in Ossipee for their GIS workshop that day. The takeaway he said from the meeting was that public education was an important component of developing a groundwater protection ordinance (GPO). He said that the State of NH would provide a representative to visit with towns considering a GPO to help explain the process. He also said that NCC could possibly supply assistance with the creation of a GPO. Sean suggested we could use a meeting with NH planning officials to review and discuss a GPO and then go forward with public education meetings to help develop community support. He indicated that GMCG stressed the importance of an outreach process. Sean said that the ordinance would probably be between 6-12 pages in length which demonstrated the importance of voter education prior to a vote at town meeting.

Cathy asked Kevin if he had any questions regarding the Conservation Commission. Kevin briefly gave some background information about himself. He is a long time resident of the Mount Washington Valley and a 2 year resident of Albany. Kevin said he follows valley town issues and as a surveyor he has presented before the Albany Planning Board in prior years.

Sean brought up the NHACC publication; NH's Municipal Conservation Commissions, and noted one of the tasks authorized to town conservation commission's was to reach out to landowners asking if they were willing to consider giving conservation easements to the town. Cathy said that other foundations sometimes do this as a

“legacy donation” etc. for individuals or family members. Sean suggested the conservation commission draft a letter addressed to larger parcel landowners in order to develop personal relationships and to possibly encourage future involvement with this idea. Kevin provided some background around what was happening around Whitton Pond and the World Fellowship property with both USVLT and the Nature Conservancy. Sean indicated that a hope of his was that an easement property could be located that would also be suitable for green burials.

Kevin asked about the Bald Hill portion of the Albany Town Forest and if there were any plans for future use for that property. A brief discussion about the terrain and habitat of that property followed.

Cathy said that by May most of the snow should be gone from the forest and the commission could schedule a trail work day.

The next ACC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 5/7/19 at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to address and with no public comments a motion to adjourn was made by Sean and with a second from Cort the vote was 4-0, and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.