

# MEETING MINUTES

## ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Tuesday, April 6th, 2021. 6:00 pm**

**Meeting was held remotely using a Polycom2 Conference Calling System**

**Members present: Kevin Tilton, Cort Hansen, Cathy Ryan, alternate. Via phone-remotely: Mike Steward, Sean Wadsworth. Absent: Leah Valladares. Public present: Paul Richardson, Jason Richardson, Mark Richardson & via phone-remotely Jake Davis.**

After completion of the Covid-19 screening protocol of temperature checks and Covid-19 questionnaire were completed for all individuals present, Kevin called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. After reading the declaration (order#12) related to public meetings during the current health crisis authorizing government boards to meet remotely, Kevin asked for a roll call vote of the members present. Kevin noted that there Leah was absent and excused.

Under new business Kevin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 3/2/21 meeting. With no comments or discussion, Cort made a motion to approve the minutes of the 3/2/21 meeting. With a second from Mike, a roll call vote was made by Kevin and by a 4-0 roll call vote the motion to approve the minutes of the 3/2/21 meeting was approved.

Under new business, Paul Richardson spoke to the past season for Grandview Farm and the upcoming plans for the summer. With the expansion of their area under cultivation, they would like to create an easier access to the new field area by installing a culvert to cross the swale on its' eastern end closer to the middle school playing fields. The current location to access the field is too wet and creates problems with equipment crossing on the southern end of the swale. The consensus was doing so would be no problem, but Kevin said that he would check with USVLT to make sure that there wouldn't be any conflict with this request and have them visit the site if necessary. Cort noted that the Richardson/Grandview seven year lease agreement which was redone in 2020 needed to be signed and they would need to make those arrangements with Kelley Collins at the office of the BOS whose contact information they had. The Richardson's left the meeting after this discussion.

Jake Davis from Littlefield Farm was present remotely and asked if the Commission had any projects that he could assist with on the fields. He brought up the presence of hazard trees or leaning trees that are located on the perimeter of the fields and noted that he had a hazard tree fall near him last year. He offered to remove any trees in question, but would like the members to identify those that should be removed. It was agreed that the members should visit the field and walk the perimeter to see what trees should be removed. A discussion about the presence of sumac encroachment in some areas of the field made with the suggestion that any sumac could be removed anytime. Jake was told if he wanted to do additional mowing work, the small separate field that is located on the NW corner of the field area could have some attention at any time. Mike noted that perhaps some of this work could be accomplished on the spring workday. Sean asked if the work that the farmers provided annually was codified within the farmer's agreements, or if it was more informal? The farmer agreements note work in exchange for use fees but are not specific to type of work. Jake left the meeting after this discussion at 6:40pm.

No work was done on a draft Town Forest Use Policy and the topic was left for a subsequent meeting.

Sean was asked about the draft Ground Water Protection ordinance and a short conversation was held about the process to educate the residents regarding the GWP. Sean noted that he had forwarded an email on Monday 4/5 regarding registering for attendance at the NHDES 2021 Drinking Water Source Protection Virtual Conference

on May 19 & 20<sup>th</sup> and suggested members should try and attend it. A discussion of a listing of water resources in Albany was made and Sean said that the town had an old survey done by the NCC years ago but that there was no current digital listing of water resources. It was suggested that perhaps there was either a state or federal agency that may be able to assist with this issue and perhaps the USVLT would be a good place to start the search for data on Albany water resources.

The Boundary maintenance plan was discussed. Kevin said that he had recently walked the area around the water tower on Bald Hill Road with Jeff Sires, Jr., and the new land steward for the USVLT. The adjacent property had seen extensive tree harvesting over the last year. Kevin noted that there were no problems found and they could walk the boundary using the original painted blazes but that the paint was 10 years old and the USVLT would be looking to the commission to include a maintenance plan as part of their annual review. Kevin noted that he had recently discovered damage to the iron boundary marker on the north side of the Kancamagus Highway at the west end of the forest property by the old campground. Apparently plowing had damaged the corner marker and he said it would have to be repaired and restored.

Expanded trail mapping was discussed and seeing what trail data the USVLT had to assist us. Kevin had discussed this with Jeff Sires, Jr. and said that it was Jeff's first week with the USVLT and that he would revisit the topic once Jeff had settled in to his new job.

The date for the spring work day was discussed with a tentative date of Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am was selected. Smaller pre-work on the winter and recent trail blow downs could be done in advance of that date. Mike and Cort said they could address some of these to at least open up the trail ROW in advance of the May date.

With no other business to discuss and with no further public comments, Kevin asked for a motion to adjourn. With a motion from Mike and with a second from Cort the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm after a 5-0 roll call vote.

The next scheduled meeting would be Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.