

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 6th, 2021. 6:00 pm

Members present: Kevin Tilton, Cort Hansen, Cathy Ryan, alternate. Absent and excused; Sean Wadsworth, Mike Steward, Leah Valladares.

Kevin called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. Meetings will no longer be held remotely.

Kevin noting that there were only 3 members present, including Cathy the alternate, made a motion to make Cathy a voting member for the evening meeting. With a second from Cort the motion was approved.

Under new business Kevin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 5/5/21 meeting. With no comments or discussion, Cathy made a motion to approve the minutes of the 5/5/21 meeting. With a second from Cort, a roll call vote was made by Kevin and by a 3-0 vote the motion to approve the minutes of the 5/5/21 meeting was approved.

Under new business Kevin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 5/25/21 meeting. With no comments or discussion, Cathy made a motion to approve the minutes of the 5/25/21 meeting. With a second from Cort, a roll call vote was made by Kevin and by a 3-0 vote the motion to approve the minutes of the 5/5/21 meeting was approved.

There was little discussion on a Town Forest Use policy with the topic to be reviewed again at a later meeting.

Kevin updated the members on the status of the request by Grandview Farm for a crossing on the drainage ditch that intersects the field. Kevin said the Greg Howard would be inspecting the site shortly to determine if there are any wetland issues there. If there is no wetland issue at that crossing we may go ahead with the project. If a wetland issue is apparent, Kevin said that there will be a simple permit process that will have to be followed but since it is an agricultural zone that the process is fairly simple and quick. In order to expedite the process and eliminate the need for another meeting before August discussion was made about voting on the plan pending NHDES approval. Cort made a motion to approve the work, pending NHDES approval. Cathy seconded the motion and the project was approved 3-0 (pending DES approval).

Kevin brought up that there had been a recent request to have the Albany Town Forest trail network added to the website TrailFinder by Peter Howe. The members could see no problem with this request and Cort made a motion to allow Peter to add the trail network to the TrailFinder website. With a second from Cathy the motion passed 3-0.

Kevin noted that Leah Valladares had offered her resignation earlier that day and the commission would need to find a replacement for her seat. Kevin acknowledged her work, thanked her for her time and suggested a motion was in order, Cort made a motion to accept "with regret" Leah's resignation. With a second from Cathy the motion was passed 3-0.

Under old business, there was no discussion regarding the listing of water resources with Sean absent.

A discussion about boundary line maintenance was had and Kevin indicated that areas with potential for problems should be addressed first when determining priorities. It was agreed that volunteer work could be accomplished in the fall with a possible schedule of late October or November. Kevin noted the time limitation the town had to utilize the 'exempted use' portion of the property on the west end. It was discussed that the time frame on improving that site, developing it was as much as 50 years so there was some flexibility for planning.

This was followed by a discussion regarding updating trail map signage on the kiosks. Kevin said that Peter had trail data that could be used for this project. Cort suggested we make 3 new maps for the 2 existing kiosks and a new third one at the trailhead on the West End Trail.

Town forest history topic was discussed briefly, and Kevin said that with the survey work that was done for the property, that this would help provide some background information for history.

Kevin brought up the creation of a Facebook page for the town forest or conservation commission. Discussion circled around the best way to set up ownership, town, conservation commission or private and how to best manage and administrate the page.

With no other business to discuss and with no further public comments, Kevin asked for a motion to adjourn. With a motion from Cort and with a second from Cathy the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm after a 3-0 vote.

The next scheduled meeting would be Tuesday, August 3rd, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.