

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 4th, 2023. 6:30 pm

Members present: Cathy Ryan, Cort Hansen, Mike Steward. Remotely: Sean Wadsworth. Absent and excused: Kevin Tilton.

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:36pm called the roll and noted that Sean was attending remotely

Under new business Cathy asked for a review of the minutes of the 3/7/23. With no comments offered, Cathy asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mike made the motion and Cathy seconded it. The minutes of the 3/7/23 meeting were approved 4-0.

There was no mail.

A work day for trail work on the Town Forest trails was discussed with May 20th at 8:00 am being selected as the tentative trail work day.

Cathy said that the NHACC has sent her forms to update contact information on all Albany conservation commission members. Cathy asked if anyone objected to having the NHACC use the members personal email addresses as the individual contacts with the Town being the primary contact address for the Commission as a whole. There were no objections.

Cathy said that she would be attending webinar sessions on Thursday and Friday sponsored by NH LCHIP regarding conservation funding sources. It is hoped that perhaps some funding may be found to help with the cost of the Timber Management Plan (TMP) for the town forest.

Sean mentioned that the USVLT will be hosting a Albany Town Forest exploration walk on April 22nd from 10 am until noon.

Under old business, Commission officer positions were elected. Cort made a motion to elect Cathy as chairperson and with a second from Mike and by a vote of 3-0-1 Cathy was elected as chair. Cathy nominated Cort as secretary. With a second from Mike the vote was 3-0-1 and Cort was elected as secretary. Reappointment of Mike and Kevin to new terms of office was discussed. The commission makes recommendations to the Albany BOS and they will then appoint the members. Cathy made a motion to recommend Mike and Kevin for reappointment to the BOS, and with a second from Cort the motion was approved 3-0-1. All abstentions were the individual members not voting for themselves for their respective positions.

Farmer contracts were discussed with the Grandview Farm contract being current and the Davis Farm contract needing amending. Copies of Certificates of Insurance are current from both Grandview Farm and the MWV Radio Control Club. The Davis Farm's COI status is unknown.

Sean had looked into funding sources to offset the cost of a Timber Management Plan from the NRCS. No grant money is available from the NRCS for Albany as the town is a government entity. Sean thought this discovery was timely as Cathy planned on attending the upcoming NHACC webinar and perhaps she would discover other funding opportunities. Cathy mentioned perhaps tapping fees generated by the Timber Yield taxes or Change of Use monies.

There has been no information regarding the NH DOT silt fence across from the ski jump on the Kanc. Further boundary line maintenance will have to wait until spring due to snow depth. It was agreed that perhaps it could be scheduled during the spring trail work in May.

Sean noted that Albany BOS needs to have a representative appointed to the Commission; a request needs to be made with them.

Sean brought up a recent email that he had received from Greg Bjork at the USVLT asking for permission to use the Albany fields for a butterfly monitoring event planned for July 22nd. The commission felt that it was a good activity and approved the request. Rick Van De Poll is organizing volunteers to catch and document butterflies. An optional rain date of 7/23 is scheduled.

With no other business to discuss and with no public comments, Mike made the motion to adjourn. Cathy seconded the motion and the motion was approved 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.