

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 6th, 2023. 6:30 pm

Members present: Cathy Ryan, Cort Hansen, Kevin Tilton. Remotely: Sean Wadsworth. Absent and excused: Mike Steward Public: Jacob MacKenzie, Andy Grigel & Bruce Webster.

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:38pm.

Since there was a scheduled appointment the agenda started off with Cathy introducing Andy Grigel and Bruce Webster from the Conway School District. Andy explained the district's request to run an irrigation line across the town forest property to water the school's playing fields. He explained that this request was part of a 9 year project to improve the playing fields around Kennett Middle School. The pipeline would be a 4" diameter, steel pipe that would include 2 hydrants along its length running from the Swift River by the RR trestle to the playing field skirting the swale between the RR tracks and the path that leads to the river. The water pump will be tractor-mounted and the tractor would be located at the riverside and would be moved nightly. The two hydrants have been offered to the farmers for their use if they desire. Pumping capacity was said to be 250 gal./minute. Discussion was made about the plan. USVLT has been previously consulted and they felt that there was no easement conflict with the pipeline request. Sean suggested that a drawing or sketch should be provided to USVLT for their records. Cathy suggested that a certificate of insurance should be provided to the Town as well. The COI should be provided annually. Kevin made a motion to approve the request pending provision of a drawing and COI. With a second from Cathy the motion was approved 4-0.

Under new business Cathy asked for approval of the draft minutes from the 5/2/23 meeting. With no further questions or discussion Sean made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting and with a second from Kevin the motion was passed 4-0.

Cathy said that she would like to acknowledge the volunteer work day on May 20th. Trails were brushed on the most of the trail network on both sides of the Kancamagus.

Under old business, the request for permission to use a portion of the field area adjacent to the Swift River trestle for a fireworks display to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Kennett High School on Friday, September 22nd 2023 was discussed. Sean indicated that the USVLT has some serious concerns about the chemical and toxic metal fallout from a fireworks show over the agricultural fields and, although they have not made a determination on the request, he felt it was unlikely that they would approve such use for the property under the easement. It was suggested that the Saralyn Smith from the Town of Conway check with the fireworks supplier for more information on the makeup of the fireworks themselves and provide that information to the USVLT for their evaluation. Cathy said that she will contact the school committee to explain the issue. It was agreed that if the USVLT says no to this request, that would be the final decision on the matter and that the school committee should be looking for a 'plan B' for their fireworks display.

There is no further information on the timber management plan.

Kevin said that the silt fence may have been removed by DOT, and if it hasn't been it must be buried in silt and debris. He would contact DOT to confirm that it has been removed.

Kevin said that he had inspected some of the boundary markers along the Kancamagus Highway and noted that although none were damaged over the winter, he noticed that some had evidence of close interference with snow removal equipment. He is planning on placing metal fence posts at those locations to help prevent any disturbance or damage to those boundary markers.

Cathy noted that Jacob MacKensie was present and had expressed some interest in serving as an alternate on the Conservation Commission. Cort made a motion to request that the Albany BOS appoint Jacob as an alternate to the commission and with a second from Kevin the motion was approved 4-0. Cathy will forward this recommendation to the BOS.

There was no further information on the request for use of the field area for a Pow-Wow event. Cort said that he would contact Jennifer Perkins to see if she could attend a conservation commission meeting to help address some of the questions raised by the commission and the USVLT.

The next regularly scheduled meeting date is July 4th. Since it is a holiday day an alternative date must be found. A tentative date was discussed as July 11th. Pending further research on the availability of the conference room, the 11th is the date that has been set.

With no other business to discuss and with no other public comments, Kevin made the motion to adjourn, Cort seconded the motion and the motion was approved 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

The next tentative meeting will be Tuesday, 11th, 2023 at 6:30pm to be confirmed at a later date.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.