

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023. 6:30 pm

Members present: Cathy Ryan, Cort Hansen, Kevin Tilton, Sean Wadsworth, and Mike Steward. Absent and excused: Jacob MacKenzie, alternate. Public: Bill Lake.

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Cathy asked for questions or comments on the minutes for the 8/1/23 meeting. With no comments or questions she called for a motion to approve those minutes and with a motion from Kevin and a second from Sean the motion to approve the minutes of the 8/1/23 meeting was passed 5-0, with Kevin abstaining due to his absence on 8/1/23.

Cathy asked for questions or comments on the minutes for the 9/5/23 meeting. With no comments or questions she called for a motion to approve those minutes and with a motion from Kevin and a second from Sean the motion to approve the minutes of the 8/1/23 meeting was passed 4-0-1 with Kevin abstaining due to his meeting absence on 9/5/23.

Discussion was held on the CC budget for 2024 which generally circled around using the same budget as presented for the 2023 FY with 12 months of meetings with 5 members and 1 alternate for \$2500, an identical operational budget of \$1000, a line for an updated Timber Management Plan of \$2500, and a line of \$1.00 for legal expenses. It was noted that the Albany select board representative position is vacant.

A meeting with the Albany BOS was proposed to discuss the proposed timber salvage operation off the Bald Hill Road. Cathy said that she would see about setting up an appointment time with the board.

Bill Lake discussed the new Habitat for Humanity project site on Rt. 16 and his concerns about issues such as lot size, water quality, etc. It was suggested that the plans for this project would need to be approved by the Albany Planning Board before the project had town approval, and those concerns would be best addressed with them.

Sean noted that the proposed salvage cut on Bald Hill Road was not impacting any rare or endangered species as indicated by Greg Bjork of the USVLT. The USVLT suggests that the commission update the ATF natural resource listing with the NH Natural Heritage Bureau. Also, the agricultural management plan should be reviewed using the interested parties including; UNH Cooperative Extension Service, the U.S. NRCS, and the USVLT. Regarding the placement of temporary storage units, Sean said he will check with the USVLT for their approval. This need was addressed at the 8/1/23 meeting due to theft and vandalism of the field equipment this past summer. Sean indicated that improvement to the service road within the ATF has been okayed by the USVLT.

Kevin noted that the Green Mountain Conservation Group will be doing water testing this month within the Town Forest. He also relayed that the USFS Saco District Ranger Jim Innis has suggested that the Commission and the Forest Service establish a M.O.U. regarding the use of the access road across the USFS property as a record keeping measure. The USFS can provide a draft copy for this process.

Darcy Kane has approached the CC with her annual request for use of the field area for XC skiing use by the middle school. The same permission was extended last year with such use limited to the field

area westward to the Wye Trail only. She is looking for a volunteer to assist with grooming for those trails.

The date for the final submission of any warrant article was requested.

Members were directed to the Saco & Swift River Watershed's efforts at the web address of SacoSwift.org

With continuing wet ground conditions any timber salvage work will be likely held off until early winter.

With no further business and with no other public comment Cathy asked for a motion to adjourn, with a motion from Kevin and a second from Sean the motion was approved 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

The next meeting date will be 11/7/23.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.