

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 6th, 2024. 6:30 pm

Members present: Cathy Ryan, Cort Hansen, Kevin Tilton, Sean Wadsworth, Mike Steward, and Jacob MacKenzie, alternate. Public: Tim Nolan, Forest Land Improvement

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Cathy asked for questions or comments on the minutes for the 1/2/24 meeting. With no comments or questions, she called for a motion to approve those minutes and with a motion from Mike and a second from Kevin the motion to approve the minutes of the 1/2/24 meeting was passed 5-0.

Tim Nolan updated the members on the progress made on the Bald Hill salvage cut taking place which had started a week earlier. He said work there would take another two weeks. He distributed a map which showed the planned area of salvage work and noted that there would be some alteration of the cut zones due to areas that were either too steep or too rocky to work in. And, there would be some area where dead oak trees were present that would be added to the salvage cut with a net gain of about 2.5 acres. He had brought along the first payment to the town for the timber sale as well which he would be holding in escrow. Tim said that he would be seeding the cut areas once the cutting is completed and he would try to do it in conjunction with the arrival of a snow storm to help stabilize the seed to prevent wind drift. He also indicated that in sections of the harvest area good view would be created to the south and east.

A brief conversation was held about creating new trails on the Bald Hill parcel that could possibly connect to the Kancamagus parcel and would offer possible views as well as a possible connection to the Tin Mountain Conservation Center's trail network.

Under new business, Cathy said she had received an inquiry about having some bee hives placed on the agricultural fields. The individual making the inquiry has spoken to Jake Davis, one of the farmers, who favors the proposal. The plan would require an electric fence to keep out bears and other animals. Kevin suggested that any location would have to consider public safety.

Mike noted that the model airplane trailer was still in place and had not been removed for the winter as requested. He also said he could not identify the area where a sheriff deputy had reported possible unauthorized cutting complaint in the town forest earlier in the winter.

Kevin reported that a redesign of the Saco District Ranger Station is underway and may result in a change in access to the fields. Sean asked about a MOU that had been suggested by Jim Innis, Saco District Ranger.

Cathy mentioned the Albany Town Budget meeting that was scheduled to meet on 2/7/24 at 5:30pm. She was planning on attending that meeting.

With no further business and with no other public comment Cathy asked for a motion to adjourn, with a motion from Mike and a second from Kevin the motion was approved 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

The next meeting date will be 3/5/24.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.