

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Members present: Cathy Ryan, Cort Hansen, Sean Wadsworth, Mike Steward, Kevin Tilton, and Jacob MacKenzie, alternate.

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. With no scheduled appointments she went directly to new business and asked for questions or comments on the 6/4/24 meeting minutes. With no comments or questions she asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes for the 6/4/24 meeting. Mike made the motion to accept the minutes and Sean seconded the motion. The vote taken to approve the minutes was 5-0 and the minutes were approved.

Under new business Cathy asked Sean to review the draft Timber Management Plan (TMP) that had prepared by Tin Nolan of Forest Land Improvement, the Town Forester. Sean and the commission went through the document discussing several topics that were noted in the draft TMP. Boundary marking was discussed, with Kevin offering to assist with future boundary work. An oil based, Rustoleum brand paint Kevin said is the preferred choice due to its durability (about 1 gallon per 1 mile of boundary). Areas that were identified as priority sections included the boundary line by the NHFG/Bob Morrell Drive/CVFD properties and the properties near Kennett Middle School and the Olympic Lane. Access notations on the TMP were discussed with the plan to have a Memorandum of Understanding drafted between the Town of Albany and the WMNF Saco District regarding the access point at the Saco District Ranger Station. The location of the former CVFD water line and the mention of safety zones around the CVFD well heads were also discussed. Existing and future trail networks and timber harvest conflicts were discussed and how trails might be impacted should future timber harvests occur. Lastly, near the end of the TMP, the Schedule of Priorities a summary of suggested project work was reviewed.

Kevin's resignation was accepted as he is moving out of town. Cathy expressed her appreciation for Kevin's work and dedication for the commission over the years. Sean echoed Cathy's comments as well and expressed his appreciation for Kevin's efforts. Kevin said he took great pleasure with the work of the commission and never failed to appreciate the wooded roadside along the Bald Hill Road that had been conserved by the Town with the purchase of the town forest, along with Tin Mountain's conservation land on the south side of the street. Cathy said that the board needed to fill Kevin's position as a full, voting member of the commission and the discussion turned to Jake, the only alternate on the commission. Cathy made a motion to promote Jake to full member status and with a second from Sean, the motion to make Jake a full member was approved 5-0.

Sean indicating that the commission needed to approve the draft TMP, made a motion to accept the TMP as written, and Cathy seconded the motion. By a vote of 5-0 the TMP was approved.

Sean made a second motion to authorize payment to Tim Nolan, of Forest Land Improvement for the cost of preparing the TMP, that fee to be withdrawn from the Albany Conservation Fund. Jake seconded the motion and with a 5-0 vote the motion was approved.

The request to rehabilitate the O'Connor memorial bench along the river by the Crossover Trail was discussed. There has been no word from either the O'Connor family or from the Tuckerman's Brewing employee who made the request. How to remove the bench and transport it was discussed as it is

locked to a nearby tree. A replacement combination lock for the gate at the Crossover trailhead that is presently damaged has been donated by Rick Hiland along with an additional spare. No one has heard anything from the farmers regarding any roadwork in the field.

Mike asked for approval to move forward with mapping and the USVLT's approval of the new trail extension work that has been done on the off of the Up Hill Both Ways trail. Cathy made a motion to approve the new mapping work and the subsequent authorization by the USVLT of the trail. Sean seconded the motion and by a vote of 5-0 the motion was approved.

Cort noted that Jake's appointment as a full commission member would need to be approved by the Albany BOS.

A question was asked if the final TMP would be available for the public. It was agreed that the TMP should be presented to the town for posting or public review.

With no further business and with no other public comment, Mike made a motion to adjourn and with a second from Sean the motion was approved 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

The next meeting date will be 9/3/24.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.