

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024. 6:30 pm

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

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. With no scheduled appointments she went directly to new business and asked for questions or comments on the 10/1/24 meeting minutes. With no comments or questions, she asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes for the 10/1/24 meeting. Sean made the motion to accept the minutes and Jacob seconded the motion. The vote taken to approve the minutes was 5-0 and the minutes were approved.

Cathy said that we are searching for an alternate member since Jacob's move to full member that required filling following Kevin's resignation. Liana Turner who had expressed interest at the October meeting has moved to Maine.

Roadway improvement to the agricultural field entry was discussed once again. There was no progress made on this project during the summer. It was suggested that a farmer meeting should be held at one of the scheduled winter meeting dates.

Under old business, the updating of the farmer's contract was the next discussion. Both contracts for the farms need to be amended. And, current liability insurance certificates need to be filed. Sean noted that terms of the farmer contracts was originally for 5 years and had been extended. Questions as to updating the acreage being used by both farms, organic practices, etc. were brought up. It was suggested that USVLT may be able to assist with establishing the new expanded acreages for each farm. Sean has converted the pdf. formatted contract for Davis Farm to a doc. file digital format. Using a PowerPoint presentation discussion on the contract was made. A mention of property any tax being paid by the farmers was discussed. As there are no taxes on the property it was considered not relevant though worth keeping just in case Conway changes their policy regarding property taxes for land owned by Albany within the Conway town boundaries. Contract length, confirming field acreage, organic practices and the topic of a memorandum of understanding between the USFS and the Town of Albany on the access road through the US government property were tasks that were listed for action. Cort said that he would contact Jim Innis to follow up on the M.O.U. that had been mentioned by Kevin earlier this year.

Under old business, a discussion was made regarding a boundary maintenance plan. Sean suggested that we create a document that establishes a policy and procedure for boundary maintenance.

A Conservation Commission annual report for the March town warrant needs to be prepared. Cort said he will draft a copy and send it around to members for review before sending it to the Town Administrator Alisa Haynes.

With no further business and with no other public comment and at Cathy's request, Sean made a motion to adjourn and with a second from Mike the motion was approved 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

The next meeting date will be 1/7/25.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.