

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 7th, 2026. 6:30 pm

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

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. With no scheduled appointments or public present, she asked for comments or questions regarding the 3/3/26 meeting minutes. With no other comments or questions, she asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes for the 3/3/26 meeting. Sean made the motion to accept the minutes and Mike seconded the motion. The vote taken to approve the minutes was 5-0 and the minutes were approved.

Cathy read a request from Cindy Sellers of the USVLT asking for permission to conduct a butterfly survey in July. Hearing no objections she asked for vote to approve the request. Sean made the motion to approve the request and Mike seconded the motion. By a 5-0 vote the request was approved.

Cathy noted that Cort will be one of the new Albany representatives on the Conway Advisory Committee regarding the potential recreation trail on the former B&M railroad line from Ossipee north to Conway.

The recent letter from Colby Fong, an independent forestry consultant, was discussed. Sean volunteered to reply to Fong to thank him for the inquiry and that we would keep his information on file for future service if needed.

Cort updated the members on his recent conversation with Jim Innes, Saco District Ranger regarding formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding for the access road behind the ranger station. Jim said that he would be meeting with USFS forest staff to discuss the request and would provide more information when available.

The proposed volunteer trail workday was postponed from the 4/18 date to 5/16 due to lack of member availability on the April date.

Mike updated the members on a conversation he had with NEMBA president Jerimiah Beach regarding updating our trail maps and kiosk signs using GPS data. Mike indicated that NEMBA was working on establishing QR coded signage on valley trail signs to assist visitors with trail navigation and location. Mike also discussed that NEMBA volunteers have begun trail work on the new trail extension that surrounds the ski jump property on the south side of Rt. 112.

Sean led off on a review of the remaining portion of the Agricultural Management Plan (AMP) not covered in the recent meeting beginning with the "Aquaculture (not allowed)" section of the plan and proceeded from there. Management Guidelines for Allow Practices were covered through the various clauses along with Periodic Updates & Process. Only two changes were made. On the second page a sentence was removed; "No agricultural activity..", since the update will reflect the current agricultural status on the property. In the "Other Requirements" paragraph, the original 2012 date is to be amended to reflect the date of the amended version of the AMP, which needs to be searched to confirm the amendment date. The organic certification notation in the referenced 2014 document should be revised to note that 'agricultural best practices' are being applied the farmers currently leasing the fields.

The next monthly meeting scheduled for 5/5/26 was cancelled due to all members not being able to attend. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6/2/26 at 6:30pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.