

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 2nd, 6:00 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Jack Rose, Cort Hansen, Peter Carboni, Dick Van Dyne (alternate). Absent: Paul Brown. Public: Sara Knox, Steve Knox.

Rob called the meeting to order at 5:58 pm.

Rob asked if there were any comments regarding the minutes of the 5/5/15 meeting. With no comments, Jack made a motion to approve the minutes of the 5/5/15 Conservation Commission meeting. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the minutes were approved 5-0.

Discussion over the draft agreement with the MWV Radio Control Club began with Rob distributing a draft list of regulations. Peter noted that the string flying area was set up pretty close to the running/walking trail on the south side of the Club area and was a potential safety issue. Dick inquired if there may be some boulders available for use as barrier rocks at a nearby construction site soon in order to prevent vehicles from leaving designated parking areas. He noted that there was recently some vehicles present in the field after dark. He asked about liability insurance. Rob noted that the club has coverage for their use of the field and will be the town with an updated certificate of insurance. Cort mentioned that there should be hours of use listed on the agreement in order to limit use to daylight hours only. Rob said that the area of use should be designated and defined to prevent gradual increasing the size of the runways.

Rob and Cort updated the members on the status of burning the field in partnership with the USFS, NH DRED and the Conway Village FD. Due to the active fire season the burn will not happen this spring. A burn plan has been prepared by the USFS and the selectmen have signed a letter of support on the burn project. The USFS is enthusiastic about burning the field, burning will now happen this fall or in spring of 2016.

Jack updated everyone on the status of the farm agreement that he has been working on. He has forwarded his draft to Betsy McNaughten from NHFG with notes regarding on the stock draft agreement that NHFG usually uses for farmers and he feels does not apply as well with our plans.

Rob discussed the recent meeting he and Cort had with Albany Road Agent Curtis Coleman to help determine costs for the completion of the public parking lot at the central trailhead on the north side of the Kancamagus Highway by the old log landing. Curtis estimated that in order to stump and level and the parking lot with gravel, the cost would not exceed \$2500. Cort and Rob will cut brush and small trees around that lot and chip the brush with a chipper that will be donated by Coleman Rental. The USVLT will be able to contribute a portion of the cost of this work from the unexpended balance of the grant that was provided for signage and development of public access for the town forest. Rob said we will need to contact the Carroll County Sheriff Department and the USFS in order to get letters of support for creation of a turnout parking area on the west end of the forest on the north side of the Kancamagus. Once letters of support are available a meeting with the NHDOT District Supervisor will be arranged. The plan is for an off-pavement lot to allow for 4-8 vehicles to parallel park by a new spur trail that will connect with the trail network along the river. Curtis will come up with a rough estimate for costs on an access road that would leave the Kanc by the NHFG/DOT gate and skirt the NHFG property running easterly to the fields. Once a cost estimate is available, further discussion with the USFS and USVLT can continue with a funding search.

Rob said that an invoice would be sent to Colton Dow shortly for lease of the field area. It was noted that he had equipment in the field that afternoon.

Rob said that Cort, Paul and he have cleaned the long ditch line that runs almost north/south through the field. There has been approximately 35 volunteer hours spent on clearing brush so far this spring. Chain saws, a brush saw and a tractor brush hog have been used in this effort. They discovered some granite split stone slabs along the ditch bottom, likely formerly used as bridge abutments for crossing the ditch. Further mowing will be necessary and that they would be starting mowing for the Albany picnic site very soon.

Cort has hung out the bird houses that Dick built along the Swift River Trail and near the junctions of the Wye and Trestle trail intersections. He has also hung the 2 LCHIP signs on the north and south side of the Kanc that USVLT provided the town earlier this winter.

Cort mentioned that Mike Stewart had cleaned the hiking trails last month with a leaf blower and they looked very neat. Mike has also cut some recent blow down that came down on the 5/28 storm. Cort has cleared some winter blow down on the Trestle Trail earlier in May.

Rob said a map for the trail system needs to be done and that he has been printing maps in small quantities for handout at the town hall. Cort said he still has 2 small aluminum laminate trail maps that can be mounted on the surplus pressure treated plywood remaining from the kiosk construction project. He intends to use these map signs within the trail network at key locations.

With no further business to discuss and with no public comment, Jack moved to adjourn the meeting. With a second, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.