

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 5th, 5:30 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Jack Rose, Dick VanDyne, Cort Hansen, Josephine Howland, Paul Brown, Alternate.

Rob called the meeting to orders at 5:30 pm.

Rob moved to approve the minutes of the 2/5/13 meeting. With the motion seconded, a 5-0 vote approved the minutes.

Rob brought up the first item on the agenda, the draft land use agreement with the New Hampshire Institute of Agriculture and Forestry (NHIAF). The board reviewed the NHIAF draft agreement as written by Albany town counsel and amended by Suzanne Brown of the NHIAF. The commission members found no issues or problems with the agreement as amended. It was felt that before the commission signs the agreement, it should be reviewed by the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (USVLT). Rob said that he would call William Abbott of the USVLT. Jack made a motion to enter into a one growing season contract with NHIAF subject to final approval by USVLT. With the motion seconded, a 5-0 vote approved Jack's motion.

Paul had draw up a report on agricultural options for the Albany Town Forest which listed 3 options. Options include: 1.; doing nothing, 2.; use and manage land by the Albany alone, 3.; turn use and management over to private sub-contractors. The commission reviewed the draft which was a good summary of the several options available with important considerations made toward both resource protection and appearance of the property.

Rob referred to the letter that Jack, as Albany select board member, had received from Tom Wagner, Forest Supervisor for the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) thanking Jack, Rob and Steve Knox for attending a recent meeting at the WMNF headquarters to discuss future plans for the Albany Town Forest. In the letter he mentions that the WMNF should draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would outline possible areas of cooperation between the WMNF and the Town of Albany. Wagner wrote that he has directed Saco District Ranger Mike Martin to meet with the commission in order to do so. Jack said he has already had a conversation with Martin who will be attending the next April 2nd commission meeting and to provide a MOU for consideration by the commission..

Jack said that he had received an email from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) about pending legislation in the NH State House related to conservation commissions. The NHACC suggested that interested conservation commissions contact their local representatives if they wanted to support any of the pending bills. A discussion followed the NH Senate Committee's recommendation of Inexpedite to Legislate for SB102, Senator Bradley's bill to allow the option of election of members to conservation commissions in NH. Jack and Rob had gone to Concord to testify in favor of this bill earlier in February. Jack indicated that the the bill would come before the Senate on Thursday, 3/7 and although Senator Bradley would speak in favor of passage, the bill was expected to fail.

Jack also said he had an e-mail from Digit Taylor of NHLCHIP asking about any payments in lieu of taxes (PLT) Albany may have made to Conway for Albany owned property within the town of Conway. The commission had discussed this matter prior to purchase of the Kennett property and felt that some payment might be appropriate only if Conway Village Fire District was making any like payments to

Albany for CVFD property located in Albany. If not, any PLT would not be likely without further discussion. Jack said he would check and see if the CVFD was making any PLT payments to Albany.

Rob mentioned that spring would soon be arriving and that the commission should be ready to spring to work on trail expansion, trail mapping, informational kiosks, and budgeting for these improvements using the USVLT grant. A number of topics came up including the kiosk design, trail expansion, trail blazing work and barriers in order to restrict the parking area around the model airplane club site. Paul is working on the kiosk design specification. Cort said he would be working on painting blazes once the snow left and that there was another Albany resident that was volunteering to help build more trails west of the timber landing site on the north side of the Kancamagus where the eastern half of the trail building ended last fall. Rob thought we should do something to corral parking and limit it to the area adjacent to the model airplane landing site, particularly if there was going to be any mowing of the fields this summer.

Dick said that we should contact Forester Don Johnson to make sure that no cutting took place on the small lot adjacent to the MWNF headquarters since the funds were no longer required. Rob said that in addition to the wet ground, the size of the cut was too small to interest most contractors, so Don thought it was unlikely that any cutting would be taking place anytime soon.

Dick explained the bird house competition that he had started last month. The judging, by Conservation Commission members, is to occur on 4/1 at the Albany Town Hall. Dick said he was hoping we could receive 30-40 bird houses to put out on the property this summer. Cort said he would send related the information to Tin Mountain Conservation Center to see if they might have people interested in participating.

Jack made a motion to adjourn. The motion having a second, was approved, and the meeting ended at 6:33 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.