

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 7th, 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 5:35 pm.

Jack made a motion to approve the minutes of the 4/2/13 meeting. With the motion seconded, a 5-0 vote approved the minutes.

A review was done of Rob and Cort's Tuesday morning 5/2 meeting with the USFS Saco District Ranger Mike Martin, Saco District Assistant Ranger Rick Alimi and USVLT William Abbott was discussed. The group walked from the District Ranger Station out through the Albany property to the NH DOT garage site discussing the possible locations and merits of building an access road to the field area. Options that included either improvement to the present access road or construction around the east side of the ranger station were unsatisfactory due to wetland issues, security of the USFS property or parking problems. Access from the Rt 16 side was considered too expensive due to slope or water problems. A corridor around the NH DOT garage was felt to be the best option. The proposed road would skirt the western boundary of the garage property and run northeast to the field area. The ground is mostly level and high and would use existing skid roads to minimize removing any more trees. At the end of the morning it was decided that Mike Martin would write a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Albany and the USFS regarding cooperation on the Town regarding the to road and road access. Mike explained that he would have USFS engineers layout and design a road from a spot west of the DOT entrance around the state property. At some time in the future, when funding becomes available, the plan would be ready to go for approval. Rob stressed that the Town would have no funding for this project and that any costs would have to be covered by other sources. Mike said that the engineering staff is short handed currently and this work may not be completed until fall. Actual road construction may be several years off due to funding restrictions.

Rob mentioned the upcoming Thursday 5/9 morning meeting with Suzanne Brown of the New Hampshire Institute of Agriculture and Forestry (NHIAF) to walk and talk about the summer agreement. Dick mentioned that he had met another individual that might be interested in haying the fields or putting us in contact with another interested party. He said that they would remain in contact should the NHIAF agreement not work out.

Rob brought up the topic of a sign to thank the organizations who provide funding for the land purchase. He suggested that we look at the site by railroad crossing on Rt. 16 by the CVFD pump house and Kennett Middle School. His thoughts were that the site was level, visible from the road, yet not blocking the vista. He showed a draft layout of the sign and said we would need to determine the size and material use to hold it up.

Rob said that he would notify the flying club about the town picnic date on Saturday 7/20.

Jack brought up the current status of SB102 which he and Cort had recently attended the NH House Committee hearing on. It is being worked on to amend it to provide for removal of Conservation Commission members for cause similar to what is provide for planning boards in the state under NH statutes.

Cort updated the work he has done on the trail signs and trail blazing. Rob and Cort walked the proposed extension of the riverside trail from the campsite west and return trail back to the parking area and landing on 5/6. Layout work had been performed by the local mountain bike club. The riverside section looked good and a work session is planned for Saturday 5/11. The return trail is vague in places and will require further layout work, although it uses more of the existing skid roads, so it will not be as hand-labor intensive. The riverside trail is pretty and offers multiple vistas of the river and will be a great addition to the property.

Dick said that he had recently gone out and put up the bird houses that were entered in the recent bird house competition.

Dick mention that there was a new Carroll County Agricultural Agent and that he would contact her in order to plan a future meeting with the Conservation Commission members.

Paul showed a miniature model of a kiosk design planned for the property. It was agreed that the full scale version could be built off-property and trucked or trailered to the land and then set up. Paul will be figuring a list of required materials in order to bid out their purchase from local suppliers. Funding will be provided by the USVLT grant. Rob said he would look up the project list and material requirements listed on this grant which he mentioned include the cost of printing trail maps and brochures.

Dick made a motion to adjourn, the motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.