

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 3rd, 2015. 6:00 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Jack Rose, Cort Hansen, Peter Carboni, Mike Steward. Public: Betsy McNaughten NHFG, Steve Knox.

Rob called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and introduced Betsy McNaughten from NH Fish & Game who was present to discuss the land use agreement with the NHFG for their lot on the Kancamagus (former DOT lot). Rob said that a lot of the planning and development of the site will be in association with the USVLT and any agreement with NHFG would have to be approved by the Albany Board of Selectmen. Details like the plowing, mowing, frequency of such, etc. would need to be established. Rob made a motion that the agreement be approved by the Commission pending final approval by the Albany BOS. Mike seconded the motion, the vote to approve was 5-0.

Rob asked for comments on the minutes for the 10/6/15 meeting. With no comments made, Peter moved that the 10/6/15 meeting minutes be accepted; with a second to the motion, the minutes were approved 5-0.

Rob said that the Grandview Farm agreement had been mailed to the Richardson family. They would like to start mowing and plowing this fall. They will evaluate the greenhouse issue next spring.

Peter asked about building security and liability on the NHFG site. Rob noted that presently there is no power or water available on the building. Rob noted that he expects USVLT to assume management of the buildings and site. Jack asked about the agricultural lot closest to Rt. 16 and the Kennett Middle School as a green house site. Rob said that area was to be left as the 3rd agricultural zone on the field pending further improvements to drainage, etc. Greenhouse location would be either below the crest in the wedge north of the model airplane field or in the triangle of open field behind the treeline on the northwest corner of the field area.

Rob said that he and Cort had okay'd the remaining \$350 balance of the funds voted earlier this summer to finish brushing the corner of the agricultural lot closest to Rt. 16 and the Kennett Middle School by Peter Howland. Peter hopes to finish hand brushing that location with a brush saw shortly. Cort has already flagged this boundary. Rob pointed out that this along with the \$650 already spent for machine mowing of the same lot means that the entire funding has now been expended.

Rob brought up the Guppy property with possible management of the lot by the Commission. The deadline for re-purchase of the property is August 2016. Rob proposed that either the Commission or the Albany BOS put in a warrant article for the March town meeting to have the CC manage the property should Albany assume ownership. He speculated that the owner may buy back the property and perhaps it is premature to have the warrant article, but if the town retains the property, a town meeting vote would be necessary to designate who would manage the property. If a warrant was prepared for the March meeting then the ground work would have been done and the process shortened.

Rob said the the NH DOT district engineer would be present at the meeting on Wednesday night and he hopes to talk to him then about the development of a parking turn-out on the western end of the property on the Kanc.

Cort discussed the chipping of brush on the middle parking lot. More cutting is still required there.

Public comment; Steve Knox asked about how much land has been taken for agricultural use on the field. Rob said that 2 lots have now been spoken for, the Dow lot and the Richardson lot. The issue of greenhouse location would have to be dealt with by the USVLT. The third lot, which he hopes USVLT will be able to find grant funding for improvement purposes, remains unused. Steve noted the 50X60 New England Food Project, a co-operative project with the goal of generating fifty percent of the New England's food needs by 2060. He said the New England currently produces only 8% of their needs. Rob commented that NH has the fastest growth of small farming operations in New England.

Rob asked for further public comment, with no comments and with no further business to address, he moved to adjourn the meeting. With a second the motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.