

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 1st, 5:30 pm

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

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

Jack made a motion to approve the minutes of the 9/3/13 Conservation Commission meeting. The motion was seconded and a vote was taken. The minutes were approved 5-0.

Rob explained information he had gathered from the 'Land for Good' organizations web site at the suggestion of Olivia Saunders from the UNH Cooperative Extension Service (CES) at the September meeting. This organization has a great deal of background on leasing agricultural land for small farm use. He believes this will give us the outline we should be using when the time comes to produce a RFP on the fields.

Rob noted that he, Cort and Paul had met with Will Abbott from USVLT earlier in the day and covered the topics discussed. This included the status of remaining monies from the USVLT grant for signage and access improvements on the property. Will said that money could carry over into next year as long as we maintained a good accounting of what we were spending. A review of the work done thus far was made. Will was interested in making sure that remaining seeding of the timber skid road and landing area was to be done ASAP in order to get some take before cold weather. The topic of sharing use on the NH DOT garage site with NH F&G was discussed. Will felt that this was a good idea if NHFG was willing. Rob will be meeting with a representative from NHFG on Thursday at the old garage site. Rob explained that no town funding would be available for such use, lease or purchase and perhaps a land swap or exchange could be made with Tin Mountain Conservation. Jack thought that discussion with Tin Mountain on this idea would be premature until NHFG's plans are more well known. Jack said perhaps NHFG would share the property with us but until we know what their plans are we should wait on land exchange ideas. Dick said that perhaps NHFG might lease a small portion of the property for our use. Potential advantages of use of this property was discussed including the close proximity to the field area and the reduction by as much as 800-900' of the distance between Rt 112 and the field in the event we build a road to access the field. The property also has buildings, electrical service and water, all of which would be important to a farming or agricultural use of the field area. Rob noted that he and Jack would meet with NHFG representatives on Thursday at 1:00 pm at the Rt 112 DOT site.

Rob and Josephine discussed the upcoming joint Albany board meeting scheduled for 10/28 at 7:00 pm. Josephine said that the Planning Board intends to share the draft copy of the new Albany Master Plan at that time.

Rob said that Susan Brown of the NH Institute of Agriculture and Forestry had contacted him and said that they had delivered the mowing equipment to the field to complete the annual mowing but that they would not start for at least a week due to personnel problems. Rob said that that was no problem even though the mowing would be completed after the end of the contractual period.

The issue of seeding the timber skid road and landing on the south side of the Kancamangus Highway across from the NN DOT entrance was discussed. William Abbott from USVLT would like to have this work incorporated as part of the USVLT grant and earlier in the day had discussed the value of doing it

as soon as possible to take advantage of the weather in order to get a good take. Rob said we should try and get this done this weekend. Cort will inform board members of the time and date later in the week. Rob updated the board about the use of the funds from the USVLT grant toward the kiosks and parking area improvements. Cort updated the the group on the status of the trail map project he is working with the USFS on. Draft data has been collected and the USFS staff are working on producing a map that will be sent to us in a format that we will be able to edit for our use. This work should be completed soon and we will be able to produce maps for use on the kiosks and for brochures. He said that most of the trail work is now completed on the west end of the network and that the paint blazing of those trails was nearly completed with only the portion of the Davis Farm Trail remaining to be painted. Trail signage and painting he hoped to complete shortly.

Dick talked about the Conservation Commission account balance and Paul noted that other than salaries no monies were being expended.

Under the topic of additional business, Rob said that Will Abbott will be providing him with logo copies of all the organizations that cooperated on the land purchase for use on signage thanking them for their assistance. Rob said members should be thinking about the joint board meeting coming up on 10/28 and consider the role and responsibilities of the conservation commission in Albany.

With no other business to address, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion approved, a vote was taken and the meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.