

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 1, 2017. 6:10 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Cort Hansen, Peter Carboni, And Alternate: Austen Bernier, Absent: Cathy Ryan, Mike Stewart, and Paul Brown. Public: Steve Knox.

Rob called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Rob asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes for the 7/18/17 meeting. With no questions or comments, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the 7/18/17 meeting minutes was made and seconded. With a vote, the meeting minutes were approved 4-0.

Rob discussed a recent request for an expedited application to the DES for a wetland permit in Albany and asked if the chair should sign off on requests for expedited reviews without having the requests wait for the monthly meeting. He explained the wetland permit process and the auxiliary role that the CC plays in the permit process. He noted that the CC signature only certifies that the CC is willing to expedite the application process for the applicant only, and makes no determination on the issue of wetland impact. Peter and Austen reviewed the application. Peter questioned whether a special meeting of the CC could be held to process requests for expedited wetland reviews as there may be circumstances that may change the impact of the intended project. Both felt that the request in hand was okay for to be signed off on, but that future requests may need to have CC evaluation prior to signing. Steve Knox indicated similar concerns. Rob said that he was indifferent, if the CC wanted to wait for the monthly scheduled meeting to process requests like this it did not matter to him, but he considered it important to a landowner's rights for a prompt process for wetland permit requests, and not requiring them to wait for monthly meeting dates. He noted that any special CC meetings would bring additional costs to the Town and should be avoided. The expedited application was approved with no decision made on processing future applications.

Rob provided parcel maps and gave a review of his discussion with the Conway Village Fire District commissioners regarding the status of the sale of the brick building owned by the CVFD adjacent to Rt. 16 and the RR tracks. Rob said that he had also discussed the property with USVLT and as they were looking to purchase CVFD property on Pine Hill in Conway they might be interested in combining the two transactions. USVLT had no interest in the very small parcel of land, as they thought it wasn't large enough to enhance the public access at that location and they were also apprehensive about the encroachment by the landowner directly adjacent to the building and saw this as a potential long term problem. No further public notice has been made as to the CVFD intentions but Rob told CVFD commissioners if they can resolve the encroachment issue to let Albany know and the CC could evaluate the parcel again. As noted at the July meeting, Rob and Cort have inspected the area earlier this summer and there was a lot of debris all around the building and along the banking which has been accumulating over the years. Steve Knox asked Rob about the former Kennett ROW from Olympia Lane, and Rob noted that it had been previously acquired by the Sell property owners.

Cort reviewed plans to have a volunteer work day scheduled for August 12th at 9:00 am. He estimates that there will be about 3 hours of work for 6 people, less if more people show up. It will be light brush cutting work with loppers in areas where tree branches and bushes are growing into the trail way. Cort distributed copies of the Volunteer Service Statement and Agreement that BOS Rick Hiland and Primex had provided. It is a comprehensive, three page, release form that includes a copy of the NH State RSA 508:17 relative to volunteers. Cort said that the volunteer will sign off on one page, which the CC will file on record, while retaining the other two pages for their own information. Cort will contact Dorothy Salomon regarding the trail date and provided contact information for use in the town column. A copy of the UNH/Stewardship Network Guide for Trail Mainte-

nance for Volunteers – Volunteer Handbook was shown. Cort said that copies can be printed off their web page.

Cort said that he has contacted Curtis Coleman regarding completing the central parking lot on the Kancamagus at the Crossover Trail. Rob said that he had a recent discussion with Curtis regarding locating the western-most parking lot and that Curtis thought that once the mileage west of the junction of Routes 16 and the Kancamagus, Route 112 was determined for location purposes, a state driveway permit would be the only document needed for state approval prior to construction.

Rob noted that Paul Brown is working on notes for the history of the Albany Town Forest for use on the town web site.

An informal review of the field and farmer status was discussed. Rob indicated that the Littlefield farmers were pleased so far this year, and although he hadn't had the same conversation with the Grandview farmers, his observation was that all the crops were doing very well. He noted that both farmers were mowing as per agreements and that the Grandview farm had tilled an additional section west of the airfield. Both farmers have been removing stones from the tilling and Cort suggested we select a site for stone disposal that might benefit development of access to the northwest corner of the field area and fill a wet spot along that roadway. Rob noted that the model airplane club (MWVRCC) was doing its own mowing this year and were also mowing the additional area as per agreement. Rob intends to have a discussion with Jim Innis, USFS Saco District Ranger, regarding obtaining some gravel and improving the access road from the Ranger Station to the fields in association with the MWVRCC.

Steve Knox asked about the 10 year Strategic Plan. Rob gave a quick review of future planning including development of a western parking lot access point, walking access off of Route 16 by the CVFD building, farmer storage and processing buildings and restoration of the southeastern corner of the field by Route 16 for agricultural use. Regarding the use of NHFG buildings at the former DOT site, Rob said that the potential use of that site was in the hands of the Albany BOS, that USVLT was willing to assist with improvements and that the only cost to the Town would be limited plowing in the winter in exchange for building and site use. The plan would be to provide future access from the field to the NHFG site with a road. He said that the catalyst for development of that site would be with the farmers, but that the farmers had indicated interest.

With no further business to address, Rob asked for a motion to adjourn. Cort made a motion to adjourn and with a second from Austen, a vote was taken and the meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.