

# MEETING MINUTES

## ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Tuesday, November 7th, 2017. 6:00 pm**

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

Rob called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Rob asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes for the 10/3/17 meeting. Austen asked for a review of the water resource discussion from last month's meeting where he was absent. Members reviewed the discussion noting recent resource inventories that the Town had participated including the extensive 2011 USVLT study. Cathy noted that these resource inventories fall under obligations included by state regulation for conservation commissions. With no further questions or comments, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the 10/3/17 meeting minutes was made by Cathy and seconded by Paul. With a vote, the 10/3/17 meeting minutes were approved 5-0.

Rob said the farmer's copies of the Agricultural Management Agreements sent out in September have been returned to the Town and that he has had them notarized and filed. He said that the next step would be to have a agreement signed by the MWV Radio Control Club for use of their landing field. He explained what the agreement would cover, the service of maintaining a portion of the field in exchange for use of the field. Members discussed the historical significance of the field and the relationship with the Hubble name as signed at the field.

Rob noted that regular member Peter Carboni has resigned from the Commission and read the email that he had received that day from Peter. Rob reviewed the background on conservation commission composition and said that there was no statutory requirement that a planning board representative be included in conservation commission membership but that Albany has historically always had a planning board member representative on the commission. Steve reaffirmed that state statutes allowed PB members to serve on conservation commissions but did not require a PB member representative. Cathy thought that inter-board communication was important and that boards should communicate more often. Rob asked if Cathy could notify the PB that a replacement representative was needed to fill Peter's vacancy and he would notify the PB chairman.

Cort discussed the trail and field evaluation that he had done after the 10/30/17 flood event. He said that given the high water during that day it was remarkable how little impact had occurred. Most surprisingly he said that there had been little further bank erosion along the Swift River. He listed areas that had seen flood water intrusion. Cort said that the footbridge on the Davis Farm Trail had washed several hundred yards downstream from its original location but that it now rests very close to the trail and should be able to be skidded back to the original location without too much effort. Although he did not walk all 4 miles of trails he has been in communication with walkers who regularly do, and they indicated that there is no substantial blow down problems in the trail network.

Rob noted that he had received notes from Littlefield Farm's Sarah Ashley on potential involvement with an educational tie-in to the agricultural use of the Town Fields. Steve made copies for the members to review. Rob said that he would like to involve the SAU 9 and school staff and that the first thing would be to invite them to a meeting to discuss the idea. Rob said that he would start with asking Town school board members to meet with the commission and with Sarah.

Rob discussed the March 2018 town meeting and a proposed warrant article to place unexpended funds from the conservation commission budget into the forest reserve fund. Cathy distributed the warrant article that reaffirms the town conservation and described it as a “house-keeping measure”.

Under public comment, Steve asked if Sarah Ashley’s notes indicated if the program was to be a curriculum topic or an after school program for middle school or high school students. It was discussed that the proposal did not specify, only highlighted the potential advantages and that the specifics would have to be agreed upon by the school district.

With no further business to address, Rob asked for a motion to adjourn. With a motion from Paul and a second from Cathy the vote was 5-0, and the meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.