

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018. 6:00 pm

Members present: Cathy Ryan, Cort Hansen, Mike Stewart, Sean Wadsworth, Austen Bernier Alternate. Absent: Paul Brown Alternate.

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Cathy asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes for the 3/6/18 meeting. Mike noted that the NEMBA trail work day date was incorrect. The correct date will be Sunday 6/17/18. Cort said he would amend the meeting minutes to reflect the right date. With no further questions or comments, Cathy asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the 3/6/18 meeting minutes was made by Sean and with a second from Mike a vote was taken, the 3/6/18 meeting minutes were approved 5-0.

Cathy mentioned spring trail work and she suggested we should set a work date for the spring trail cleaning. Austen reported that the trails are in pretty fair condition as he had been out on them earlier in the day. He indicated that there were some small blow downs but nothing too big. Mike had removed a hazardous hanging tree near the junction of the Crossover and Davis Farm trails earlier in March. The commission decided on a work date of Saturday May 5th at 9:00am. Also discussed was the NEMBA volunteer day for Sunday June 17th which would focus volunteer work on the development of the new trail on the south side of the Kancamagus Highway. Cathy said she would have the 5/5 work date placed on the Town web site.

Cort said that he would contact Curtis Coleman to see about setting a date to improve the parking lot by the Crossover Trail. He indicated that there was one more tree that would need removal before the gravel parking area was finished. Also, due to interest in winter parking at that lot there should be some accommodation made for winter snow storage and that may require moving the gate and enlarging the lot to allow for storage.

Sean said that he has been working on information regarding “green burials” and should have some information shortly. He reported that the Planning Board has been working on a possible “Dark Sky” ordinance.

Cathy brought up the recent web posting regarding the Littlefield Farm under new correspondence. They have posted an update regarding planning for the spring 2018 season.

Austen reported that someone has placed a new wooden sign by the F.S. steel gate entrance to the fields regarding dog waste. Cort said that he would work on universal signage regarding dog waste for evaluation by the members and have something ready for approval at the next meeting. Once signage was agreed upon the commission may obtain some aluminum signs printed for posting at trailhead locations and by the cultivated sections of the fields.

Cathy noted the joint Board meeting with Albany Town Boards and the BOS scheduled for Wednesday May 9th. William Abbott from USVLT is on the agenda to their 2017 survey and analysis of the Upper Saco Valley Aquifer.

The voting for Commission Chair was brought up. Cort made a motion to elect Cathy as Chair the question was moved by Sean and with a second from Mike, Cathy was elected 5-0. Cathy made a motion to elect Cort as Secretary, the question was moved by Sean and with a second from Mike, Cort was elected 5-0. A discussion about replacing the missing full member was had. With Austen being gone all summer this year and Paul being gone all winter it was agreed that the two could be maintained as alternates, as opposed to one of them moving

into the full member position, and then searching for a replacement full member in the interim. Members were asked to consider residents that may be interested in volunteering for the position.

Cathy followed up with asking for questions on the NH Municipal Association's publication "Knowing Your Territory" which she had provided last month and she had suggested that members review the copy for informational purposes. Sean asked about recent studies that had applied to Conservation Commission work. Referrals were made to the files in the file cabinet related to past studies done by UNH and NCC. It was thought that an inventory should be made of the file cabinet contents so that the commission could utilize past work. Austen referred to another town's web site that he had recently found that was quite elaborate. He said he would forward a link to members following the meeting.

Cort provided to Cathy the Commission's file cabinet key which Rob had given him. On the topic of locks, it was speculated that perhaps the lock combination on the F.S. gate be changed given how long it has been in use and a replacement combination lock should be installed on the gate at the Crossover Trail parking lot, ideally with the same combination.

A discussion about Strategic Planning was made with the topic of the property listing on the west end of the property, the former campground. It was thought that a conversation with William Abbott should be had regarding grant funding availability and perhaps contacting the owners to see what their time-line was in selling the property.

With no further business to address, Cathy asked for a motion to adjourn. With a motion from Mike and a second from Sean the vote was 5-0, and the meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.