

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, January 7th, 5:30 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Jack Rose, Dick VanDyne, Cort Hansen, Paul Brown alternate (voting due to Josephine Howland not present). Public: William Abbott USVLT.

Rob called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.

Rob asked if there were any comments regarding the minutes of the 12/3/13 meeting. A motion to approve the minutes of the 12/3/13 Conservation Commission meeting was made. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the minutes were approved 5-0.

Rob provided a copy of the land agreement that the Commission had with Susanne Brown and the NHIAF for the commission members. Paul provide copies of solar powered water pumping systems that may address water questions for agricultural needs.

A review of the draft trail map was discussed. Cort said that the Jana Johnson of the USFS had been working on the map and that she was looking for comments on the map. Several changes were suggested including; adding the USFS Ranger Station location, showing the boundary around the Kennett Ski Jump, adding a 'P' for parking on the west end of the property, adding trail section mileage, adding a missing piece of the Trestle Trail from Davis Farm Trail to the Swift River Trail on the east end, changing the running trail to the same line style as the other trails, showing roads as a different line style than the trails, adding the Albany Town logo, showing the railroad line, and labeling the river and brooks. William Abbot offered to assist Jana and said that he would contact her. Cort said he would forward these suggestions to her.

Rob reviewed the discussion with the NHIAF from the 11/5/13 meeting and the contract he had provided for the members. Other interested parties were listed including Glenn Mitchell, Wayne Peterson, Colton Dow along with contacting other groups including the New Hampshire Organic Farmers Association (NHOFA) and USVLT that may be able to reach out to parties looking for land to lease. It was felt that when we had prepared a RFP for the land we should broadcast it to all parties. Paul and Rob said that we should look to the Land For Good organization to find a template we can lift for our RFP.

Rob said that he had recently had an inquiry from the White Mountain Aquatic Association regarding the land. He explained that the current easements would likely prohibit the use by the WMAA. William agreed and the discussion went over the history going back to the original land purchase efforts went the land was going to be bought out-right by the town without the involvement of so many grant organizations. When the first effort failed, and with the eventual purchase with the assistance of so many other grant organizations that came with more restrictions, the original concept about a lease is now invalid.

Discussion returned to the a RFP for agricultural bidding for the property, how to start with a plan, time frame, etc. It was agreed that the time frame must be short-term in order to move ahead since farmers will be scheduling and planning their spring planting, seed purchases, etc.

Dick asked about having another bird house competition. It was agreed that we should do so. Dick said that he would contact Dorothy Solomon for a mention in the town column. The SAU vocational department should be contacted as well. Dick suggested a 4/1 entry deadline with a 4/15 judging date open to school age children only.

Rob said that he thought that there would be no changes in the Conservation Commission budget for FY 2014.

With no other topics to address, Jack moved to adjourn the meeting, with a second and a vote, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.