

MEETING MINUTES

ALBANY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 18th, 2016. 6:00 pm

Members present: Rob Nadler, Cathy Ryan, Mike Stewart, Peter Carboni, and Cort Hansen.

Public: Steve Knox

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

Rob asked for comments or questions regarding the minutes for the 9/6/16 meeting. With no questions or comments; Rob asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Peter made a motion to approve the 9/6/16 meeting minutes and with a second from Mike the minutes for the meeting were approved 5-0.

The members discussed the planning for new trail on the south side of the Kancamagus Highway. Rob made a motion to approve development of a mountain bike trail on the south side of the Kancamagus pending USVLT approval as per the easement. With a second the motion was approved 5-0.

Rob noted the annual meeting of the NHACC is coming up on 11/12/16. He mentioned that the Conservation Commission will pay for fees should anyone be interested in attending the meeting.

Cort explained a recent request he had received from the USFS's John Neeley regarding participation in their FY 2017 Special Fuels funding. John had indicated that studies have shown some possible area in and around Albany that the Forest Service could possibly partner with the Town to reduce and restore high risk, solid fuel sources around the community. This could also include boundaries around the Town Forest and field. He would like to arrange a visit with the commission to discuss the program further. Cort said he would contact John to see if he could attend the next month's meeting.

Rob said he needs to meet with the Grandview farmers and the MWVRCC club to establish the boundaries for mowing of their respective field areas. Members noted that some mowing has already been completed by the Littlefield farmers and the improved appearance that has been the result.

Cathy asked about the budget planning for 2017. Rob showed a proposed budget for the next year and explained the reasoning for each line. Cathy noted that the meeting may have as a topic, multi-year agreements for farm land use depending on the recommendations of the Town Counsel.

Rob asked that the Select Board put on the 2017 Warrant an article enabling the Conservation Commission to accept gifts and grants as they relate to the Town Forest.

Cathy said the Selectmen would like to work with someone from the Conservation Commission to inspect the NHFG buildings to determine if or what work needs to be done to use or restore the building for use by the farmers and Town. Rob noted that any work or improve could be funded by grants which have already been discussed and the town need not be prepared to fund any such work. He pointed out that any lease with NHFG will need to be handled by the Select Board. The work by Jack Rose for lease of the property included the stipulation that the Town would be responsible for plowing of a portion of the lot and that the NHFG lease initially was for a 2 year trial period to see how the arrangement worked. Cathy noted that there could be a potential conflict regarding plowing as to the benefit of town versus the farmers. Cort noted that the local CO was Alex Lopashanski and he attended the same meeting that the NHFG property manager attended with the commission in 2015 and he was to be the local contact for the FG department regarding that property's use.

Rob motioned to send to the Selectmen the draft budget for the 2017 Town Warrant. Peter moved and Mike seconded and the motion was approved 5-0.

The next scheduled meeting is November 1, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

With no other comments, and with no further business to address, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made and with a second the motion was approved 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Cort Hansen, Conservation Commission Secretary.