



Gilmanton Conservation Commission

PO Box 550, Gilmanton NH 03237-0550

MINUTES APPROVED

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Academy Building, 503 Province Road, Gilmanton, NH

Patrick Hackley, Chairman Stephen Hopkins, Vice Chairman Richard de Seve, Member Paula Gilman, Member Susan Hale-de Seve, Member Thomas Dombrowski, Member Nikita Twaalfhoven, Member Bre Daigneault, Com. Dev. Dir.

Call to Order

Members present included Chairman Patrick Hackley, Members Dick de Seve, Sue Hale-de Seve, Paula Gilman, and Thom Dombrowski, along with Community Development Director, Bre Daigneault. Vice Chairman Stephen Hopkins joined via conference call.

A. **Review of Minutes** – December 12, 2023 Chair Hackley made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. A name was corrected. Member De Seve seconded. **Motion passed 5-0**

B. Correspondence/Announcements

- Trails Sub-committee update- Member Dombrowski stated a cut was done last Friday. They opened up the view to the west towards Frisky Hill. Member Dombrowski, along with volunteers Rich Maher and Guy Williams are working on another trail that will go from the blue trail to the red trail.
- New Member Application- Jason Smith- Mr. Smith stated he is ready to be involved in the community. He had worked for Fish and Game and is now with the DES Water Division. Chair Hackley motion to recommend the Selectmen appoint Mr. Smith to the Commission. Member Gilman seconded. **Motion passed 5-0**

Member Dombrowski would like Mr. Smith to take his spot as a full member and Member Dombrowski would step down to an alternate position. Members agreed.

C. Conservation Easement Monitoring and Stewardship

D. Wetland/Shoreland/Biosolid/Intent-to-Cut/Forestry Notifications/Applications

There were two intents to cut received and reviewed. There were no concerns.

E. Review of Invoices/Costs/Budget

The near, end of year 2023 budget had approximately \$400 remaining. There were still a few invoices to process.

The Conservation Fund was at \$85,296. Chair Hackley explained the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) helped to contribute to the growth. When land is removed from current use, a LUCT is issued. This is now split 50/50 with the Town's operating budget.

F. Planning Board/Zoning Board Applications

The agendas for both were reviewed. The PB is proposing to change the camper ordinance to allow for storage of an RV accessory to a dwelling in the Residential Lake Zone (Sawyer Lake). It does not change prohibiting the use or residing in an RV. There were no other concerns or questions.

G. Complaints/Violations/Concerns

- Chair Hackley reviewed an administrative order for 153 Lakeshore Dr. The property owners had previously received a remediation plan from DES but were not complying with the requirements. The order had been issued on Dec. 20, 2023.
- Arrowhead Ln, 132-114- There was a dilapidated cabin on the town conservation land. Member de Seve felt they would need to hire a contractor and have asbestos testing completed. The property had been taken by tax deed in 1994 and voted to be retained as Conservation land in 1999. This would be address under snow free conditions.

H. New Business

- Request for Bids- Frisky Hill pull-off
Chair Hackley would, just based on price, remove B-Roy Construction at \$31,800 and Caratunk at \$61,400 from the options. HK White & Sons wrote a site-specific quote at \$27,000. Raymond's Landscaping's bid proposal was quoted at \$26,500. Chair Hackley stated, typically, they would go with the lowest bid, however they reserve the right to choose a different contractor for good reason. Member de Seve felt both bids are almost identical. VC Hopkins stated he could call the references and report back to the commission. Additionally, he wished to note a difference with the insurance policies. VC Hopkins stated there are two different types of policies: claims made or cost of correction. If something were to go wrong with claims made, a lawsuit would have to take place before the insurance would pay out. With the cost of correction, they would need to fix the problem with the client, then the insurance company would reimburse. The entire policy could be requested. Members agreed to postpone the decision to the February meeting based on the reference checks. The Commission could draft their own contract. CDD Daigneault stated town council had been contacted for a draft contract. Angie Raymond of Raymond's Landscaping was present. She stated she could send copies of contracts they have utilized in the past from other Cities.

I. Old Business

- Forest Maintenance Fund WA- BOS have moved the warrant article forward to Budget Committee with a \$25,000 cap and the CC as agents to expend. CDD Daigneault stated the DRA does not recommend commissions as agents to expend to ensure the fund is spent in the appropriate ways.
- Member de Seve has been in touch with LRCT. He is scheduled to meet with LRCT next Tuesday regarding the Dockham property on Hill Top Farm Rd.
- GLT- Mr. Wilson stated their next meeting is a week from tonight. They are actively pursuing a grant. Members of the GLT had walked a property and will be speaking with LRCT to make progress on this potential project. Members discussed collaborating with the GLT. The first step would be to look at maps and identify lands that may be adjacent to existing conservation land and natural areas.

Review of violation- Chair Hackley stated there was a pole ford crossing violation on a logging operation on property located between Crystal Lake Rd and Rte 140. The local forest ranger had viewed the property and was continuing to monitor the project.

Buzzell Cemetery- The cemetery trustees had notified the Town of a broken limb that had fallen on some gravestones. This had been cleaned up. However, the trustees also noticed an ash tree that was rotting and needing to be removed. This was located on conservation land. The trustees had requested to have the rotting trees removed to protect the slate gravestones.

J. Upcoming Dates

- Next Conservation Commission Meeting: February 13, 2024

Respectfully Submitted, Patrick Hackley, Chairman