



# Gilmanton Conservation Commission

PO Box 550

Gilmanton NH 03237-0550

conservation@gilmantonnh.org (603) 267-6700 ext. 122

## Minutes of January 14, 2020

**APPROVED**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chairman Dick de Seve. Those present included Chairman Dick de Seve, Alternate Member Sue Hale-de Seve, Vice Chair Jennifer Baker, Member Patrick Hackley, and Member Ed Bernstine along with the Conservation Commission Clerk Bre Daigneault. Member Stephen Hopkins had an excused absence. There was one member of the public present.

### **A. Minutes of December 10, 2019**

Member Hackley made the motion to accept the minutes of December 10, 2019 as written. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Baker. 4-0 in favor

### **B. Correspondence/Announcements-**

1. Member Hopkins had submitted pictures he had taken of the open well at Frisky Hill. He had posted the area with an open pit sign. There was a brief discussion about possibly filling the open well when viable.
2. The Commission reviewed a ZBA application for property located at 729 Stage Rd, as this property abuts Conservation Land. The Commission did not have any comments.
3. Chair de Seve made the Commission aware of the meeting on Wednesday night at 6 for the Old Town Hall upgrades.

### **C. Conservation Easements, Monitoring and Stewardship-**

Chair de Seve shared 2 easement monitoring reports submitted by the Five Rivers Conservation Trust. The first was located at 180 Griffin Rd. There were no signs of changes. Invasive species remained a problem and the monitor did discuss possible invasive control cost sharing measures with the property owner. The second report was for property located at 166 Loon Pond Rd. There were no signs of any changes, however, there were some invasive species found (bittersweet, autumn olive, and burning bush). Both property's fields were hayed this past year.

Member Hackley inquired as to the profit and cost of haying on Conservation land. It was agreed to look into prior agreements with those completing the haying and if there should be a cost for the products removed from Conservation lands. Additional questions were brought up by VC Baker as to the insurance liability with those doing work on Conservation land. Admin. Daigneault would inquire with the Finance office as to who and when contractors, volunteers, and residents are covered by the Town insurance policy.

### **D. Wetlands/Shorelands/Biosolid/Intent-to-Cut/Forestry Notifications/Applications**

None

### **E. Review of Invoices/Cost/Budget-**

The commission received an invoice for trail maintenance on Thompson Town Forest completed by Ron Klemarczyk and Foreco, LLC. Chair de Seve had walked the trails and found them in great condition, thanks to the crew completing the maintenance.

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Member Hackley made the motion to have the invoice paid to Foreco, LLC in the amount of \$325. The motion was seconded By Member Bernstine. **5-0 in favor**

**F. Planning Board/Zoning Board Applications-**

Chairman de Seve and Member Hale-de Seve had attended the Planning Board meeting the prior week. Chair de Seve shared his views of the meeting. He has spoken to the Planning Board with his concerns (as an individual, not as the Conservation Commission representative) for the changes to the allowable usages in the Conservation Zone and the removal of the setbacks for wetlands. Chair de Seve described the conversation of the proposed 55+ Housing ordinance. Admin. Daigneault updated the Commission with the changes the Planning Board had made to the proposed ordinances after receiving public input. The final Planning Board public hearing will be on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>.

**G. Complaints/Violations/Concerns – None**

**H. New Business-**

Member Hackley had reviewed the amount of money each Conservation Commission, in Belknap County, received from Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) revenues. Currently, the GCC receives \$2,500 plus an additional 10% over the initial \$2,500 with the remainder going to the general fund. Most other Towns donated either 0%, 50%, or 100% to the Conservation fund. Gilmanton ranked in the top three towns for revenues generated by LUCT, however, contributed the least to the Conservation fund. He felt these revenue numbers could be increased to assist the GCC with conserving more land. Member Hackley proposed a warrant article for 2021 to increase the amount to the Conservation fund to 50% of the revenue from LUCT. Chair de Seve remembered years back, there was a show of support to increase the level to 100%, however, this did go further with the Budget Committee. Members agreed to gather additional documentation to further justify this proposed increase.

**I. Old Business**

Frisky Hill- This effort is suspended until the ground thaws. At this point, there is no way to re-stake the possible pull-off area.

**J. Upcoming Dates-**

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

**Adjournment**

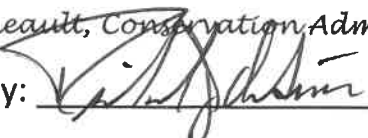
Member Hackley made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Baker.

***Motion passed 5-0.***

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bre Daigneault, Conservation Admin.*

Attested by:



*Dick de Seve, Chair*

on

*3/11/2020*

*Date*