



Gilmanton Conservation Commission

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Minutes of May 12, 2020

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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 Stephen Hopkins, and Member Patrick Hackley along with the Conservation Commission Clerk Bre Daigneault. Member Ed Bernstine was absent. Members of the public included Paula Gilman and Stephen Brooks. Due to the COVID-19 emergency order, this meeting was held virtually by utilizing the Zoom platform.

A. Wetlands Application

Chairman de Seve called the first order of business to property owner Stephen Brooks. Mr. Brooks has submitted a Wetlands Permit-by-Notification (PBN) for his property located at 209 Lakeshore Dr, Map/lot 131-21. The application is to replenish sand to an existing perched beach. Members reviewed the application and had little concern with the affected area. Alt. Member Hale-de Seve made the motion to approve the PBN. The motion was seconded by Member Hackley. **All in favor 5-0**

B. Minutes of April 21, 2020

Member Hopkins made the motion to accept the minutes of April 21, 2020 as amended. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Baker. **All in 5-0 in favor**

C. Correspondence/Announcements

- John Dickey, on behalf of the Gilmanton Historical Society, submitted a request to utilize the Twigg barn on Meeting House Road for approximately one hour starting at 5pm on July 28, 2020. The Commission did not have any problems with Mr. Dickey's request. Member Hopkins made the motion to approve the request. It was seconded by Alt. Member Hale-de Seve. **All in favor 5-0**
- This discussion led to talk of the condition of the barn roof. The Commission would have to present an RFP to receive quotes on the roof. Miss Gilman requested to speak to the Commission. She suggested contacting the NH Preservation Alliance for grants that may be available for historic barns.

D. Conservation Easements, Monitoring and Stewardship

- Member Hackley, with the Commission's permission, will reconnect with Fuzz Freese to review the pull-off and re-engage the project with DOT. Members were in agreement.
- Chair de Seve had gathered garbage from the Ella Stroud Town Forest. When he had returned to bring the bag to the dump, someone had already removed it.

E. Wetlands/Shorelands/Biosolid/Intent-to-Cut/Forestry Notifications/Applications – Nothing further

F. Review of Invoices/Cost/Budget - None

G. Planning Board/Zoning Board Applications- None

H. Complaints/Violations/Concerns

- Chair de Seve walked the Betty Smithers Town Forest with Paul Osborne of the Gilmanton Snowmobile Assoc. Mr. Osborne is requesting a grant from the NH Bureau of Trails to upgrade a portion of the snowmobile trail which runs through the forest. He is proposing to reroute a portion of the trail. Chair de Seve reported there would be no cutting of trees or impact on wetlands. The GSA would be installing pontoon style bridges over areas that tend to get wet. Chair requested pictures throughout the project and will plan to meet Mr. Osborne back at the forest once the project is completed.
- Member Hackley had received a request from a land owner abutting GCC land on Meeting House Rd. Resident Mark Warren is concerned with some trees on town land that appear to be leaning over his land. He is requesting to have these removed. It was decided Member Hackley would meet with Mr. Warren to view the trees in question.
 - i. Member Hackley inquired if a liability waiver should be drawn up in cases where a resident wishes to remove trees or complete work on town land.
 - ii. Members inquired of Admin. Daigneault to look into town policies regarding liability waivers. The same may need to be updated for those that have the Twigg field and Jeff Fillion who taps trees on town property. She would look into this further.

I. New Business-

- **Strategy Planning & 2020 Commission Goals**

Member Hopkins reviewed the vision and mission of the GCC, as discussed last month. The next step in the plan is "Defining Roles" of individuals willing to assist. Members had reached out this past month to several local persons and their willingness to aid. Members received positive feedback from many, such as Fuzz Freese, Graham Wilson, and Nanci Mitchell. Amanda Stone of UNH Coop. Extension and the 5 Rivers Conservation Trust suggested the GCC complete an application. Others would like to assist, but could not guarantee the amount of time they had available. Members were awaiting responses from other potential contributors. Members discussed the amount of time people have to contribute could be an obstacle. Vice Chair Baker and Miss Gilman agreed it could be beneficial to engage younger, even high school aged, people who may be interested in natural resources to assist. There is a possibility of starting a GCC Facebook page to engage the younger generation. Member Hopkins would like members to rank and prioritize the list of initiatives at the next meeting.
- **Nominate Chair and Vice Chair seats**

Member Hackley made the motion to nominate Dick de Seve as Chairman and Jennifer Baker as Vice Chairwoman. Member Hopkins seconded the motion. **All in favor 5-0**
- Miss Gilman requested to remove an invasive species, Autumn Olive, from the corner of Bingham Rd. and Frisky Hill. The property is owned by the Town and known as *Samuel Gilman Corner*. Vice Chair Baker inquired whether this would be a job requiring a waiver. Admin. Daigneault did not believe this job would reach the limit for a required binder, but she would verify the amount.

J. Old Business

K. Upcoming Dates-

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be on **Tuesday, June 9, 2020.**

Adjournment

Chair de Seve closed the meeting at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bre Daigneault, Conservation Admin.

Attested by:  on 6/25/2020
Dick de Seve, Chair Date