



Gilmanton Conservation Commission

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Minutes of June 30, 2020

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 Stephen Hopkins, Member Patrick Hackley, Member Ed Bernstine, Member Paula Gilman, and Alt. Member Thomas Dombrowski along with the Conservation Commission Clerk Bre Daigneault. Due to the COVID-19 emergency order, this meeting was held virtually by utilizing the Zoom platform.

- **Natural Resource Inventory-** This was a specially scheduled meeting to discuss updating the NRI: Chair de Seve felt the goal would be to divide the work by categories that each member has interest and/or expertise in. Much of the wording in the current report can be used, it just needs updated data. Member Hopkins wanted to affirm the consensus of the commission places the NRI update as a top priority on the strategic plan. Members agreed and explained the reasoning for such a top priority. Chair de Seve stated it would show exactly what we have in this town for natural resources and what areas we need to protect. This would include resources to be used, others to be valued and protected. Knowing these resources helps all planning processes going forward, including planning and zoning. Member Hackley added it manages water resources, open spaces, forests, public lands, and conserved lands. Proper management of natural resources promotes quality of life in this rural area. Members agreed this needs to be an active document to help inform the public as well as other board members. Member Hopkins recapped the discussion: 1) know what we have; 2) use that to guide our efforts; 3) use it to communicate with interested parties both within the town and within the community; 4) make sure it is not just a piece of paper, but a living document used to educate. Members reviewed and assigned portions of the NRI. Each member would be responsible for a particular section and could enlist the help of others in the community or profession that would be willing to assist. There is a limited availability of soil data as Belknap County has not been updated in several years. Vice Chair Baker suggested assigning the duties and have each member come back to the next meeting with an estimate of how much time they feel the section would need.

The sections of the NRI were assigned as follows:

- P. Gilman- Agricultural Resources
- P. Hackley- Forest Resources, Town Forests, and Soils
- D. de Seve- Wetlands and Vernal Pools and Topography (maps) and Land Protection Recommendations
- S. Hopkins- Plant Communities and Beneficial Insects
- J. Baker- Ground Water & Drinking Water and Water Resources
- E. Bernstine- Recreational Trails and Scenic Resources and Natural Communities
- S. Hale-de Seve- Protected Lands (current use)
- E. Bernstine & P. Gilman- Wildlife Habitat

It was discussed to look further into the timeframe it will take to update these sections, online sharing documents to make reviewing easier for members (if it is allowable for Town business), and the timeline for scheduling meetings for the NRI.

The next regularly scheduled GCC meeting will be kept on July 14th. Members would meet on Wednesday, July 22nd to update progress on the NRI. Member Baker and Admin. Daigneault would both be on vacation on the July 14th meeting.

Member Hopkins reviewed the items to look to have ready for the next NRI meeting: look at what needs to be done, create a list of the major items needed, including how long it may take, who may be able to help, and if there is a financial resource that may be needed for each section.

Adjournment

Chairman de Seve closed the meeting at 8:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bre Daigneault, Conservation Admin.

Attested by:



Dick de Seve, Chair

on

9/18/20

Date