



# Gilmanton Conservation Commission

PO Box 550

Gilmanton NH 03237-0550

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

## Minutes of July 22, 2020

### Special Meeting of the Natural Resource Inventory

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:15 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.

- **Minutes of June 30, 2020-** Alt. Member Hale-de Seve made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Member Bernstine seconded. Chair de Seve abstained. **Motion passed 5-0**
- **Natural Resource Inventory-** Members reviewed the progress each have made since the last NRI discussion. Chair de Seve started the discussion with his research on wetlands and vernal pools. Many of the wetlands in the current NRI would not change. Vernal pools, however, can be difficult to define and locate. He has spoken with past member and natural resource consultant, Tracy Tarr, who has agreed to review the wetlands and vernal pool section for recommendations on how to update. Chair de Seve feels it would be important to help owners identify a vernal pool and educate them to understand why they exist. He feels it would take approximately six months to have this section completed.  
Member Hackley expects to have his sections revised within a six-month window. He has sources available for information for all categories. Member Hackley discussed the use of LiDAR technology and how to incorporate it. He is hoping to add more details from what is currently in the report. Member Gilman suggested utilizing the data found on the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) website.  
Vice Chair Baker spoke on the water resources section. She felt the section has good information but could be re-written in places. Many of the watershed resources remain unchanged. The Regulations may need to be updated. Chair de Seve recommended Member Baker contact Amy Smagula at DES to discuss invasive species. VC Baker believes a six-month timeline should be sufficient.  
VC Baker stated the facts in the groundwater section need to be rechecked. Some sections do need to be revised. Again, she believes this can be updated by the end of the year. Chair de Seve had reached out to Garret Graaskamp, who is a hydrologist and is willing to help.  
Member Gilman spoke of the agricultural resources section. Her key goals would be to update the farm lands and land cover. She would like to keep a list of each farm in Gilmanton. Different ways to survey residents with farms was discussed (website, Facebook, newspaper).  
Member Bernstine felt the purpose of the Natural Communities is to understand the relationships among plant and animal species and their environment to ensure management decisions are not disruptive. He has started to collect sources to aid in the update. He would like to see this section written to be more specific to Gilmanton. Focus on communities within the Town and how they would be affected by development.

Member Hopkins has reviewed the sections on plants and insects. The invasive species section could be updated. He knows of species that are not listed in the current NRI. He feels this can be accomplished in three months. He found resources with the UNH Cooperative Extension. He has also been introduced to the invasive species coordinator with the NH Dept. of Agriculture. The impact and benefit to the community will be straight forward to articulate. He feels three months would be his timeframe for completion of the Beneficial Insects section. Member Hackley suggested adding a section for the damaging forest pests. There are a lot more documented species. Member Hopkins mentioned an ancillary section could be the use of pesticides.

Alt. Member Hale-de Seve stated there are more than 1,500 acres of current use land than there was in 2004. She would like to add a more descriptive table. Chair de Seve will be reviewing trails and protected lands with Tom Howe.

Member Hopkins inquired as to different programming that members could utilize to update the inventory. Member Bernstine has utilized Microsoft 365. It has plenty of storage, can be shared among multiple people, and automatically saves. Admin. Daigneault would look into the Town's 365 account to see how it could be utilized. Member Hackley introduced the Box platform. The accounts are free and works very similar to 365.

Chair de Seve cautioned members to make sure to save online links to give attribution in the NRI to where the information derived from.

Member Hopkins feels the commission members have a little more work to do to finish the work program, as well to follow up with the resources needed. He inquired if one month from now would allow members to gather their remaining information. Members agreed.

The next regular meeting would be on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Members decided to meet again to discuss the NRI on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 7pm. Admin. Daigneault will keep the Commission informed of the Planning and ZBA boards joint meeting in September.

#### Adjournment

Chairman de Seve closed the meeting at 8:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bre Daigneault, Conservation Admin.*

Attested by:



*Dick de Seve, Chair*

on

*9/18/20*

*Date*