



Gilmanton Conservation Commission

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Minutes of August 20, 2020

Special Meeting of the Natural Resource Inventory

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Chairman Dick de Seve. Those present included Chairman Dick de Seve, Alternate Member Sue Hale-de Seve, Member Patrick Hackley, Member Paula Gilman, and Alt. Member Thomas Dombrowski along with the Conservation Commission Clerk Bre Daigneault. Vice Chair Jennifer Baker, Member Stephen Hopkins, and Member Ed Bernstine had excused absences. There were no members of the public present. Due to the COVID-19 emergency order, this meeting was held virtually by utilizing the *Zoom* platform.

- **Natural Resource Inventory-** Members reviewed the progress each have made since the last NRI discussion. Member Gilman stated she had been in touch with Kelly McAdams of the UNH Cooperative Extension. Member Gilman has been working on finding resources to update the agricultural and soils maps. She is in the process of making a survey to send out to discover the number of farms currently in Gilmanton. This would include commercial farms, as well as smaller non-commercial farms. Member Hackley will have access this fall to the State Forest Plan. He plans to utilize information in this plan to update the forestry section. He would like to do a summary of the insects and disease that are currently prevailing in town. The general forest health along with forest soils will also be researched. Member Hackley would like to include aerial topography from over a few years to determine land use changes and development over time. Chair de Seve has been working on the wetlands section. He has been reviewing the changes to the wetlands rules to see how they affect any areas in Gilmanton. Chair de Seve feels there may be areas in town that should be designated as a prime-wetlands. He will send the definition of a "prime wetlands". He has also been researching vernal pools. The goal would be to teach residents how to identify a vernal pool and why they are important. Member Hackley recommended members look at the publication "Good Forestry in the Granite State". It is a good reference for management around sensitive areas such as vernal pools, old growth forests, running water, and wildlife habitat, to name a few. Chair de Seve stated other towns have a wetland overlay ordinance. In fact, this was a recommendation in the 2004 NRI to enact such an overlay ordinance. Chair de Seve relayed the State does not differentiate between what is considered a lake or a pond. Quite often the designation was based on whom originally named the water body. Member Gilman recommended renaming the Lakes and Ponds section "Water Bodies". Members agreed. Member Hackley suggested adding a section on eutrophication (which is essentially when a pond grows into a marsh). He feels it would be important to explain what it is, what are the causes, and how can further growth be prevented. Member Gilman would like to see a lot of definitions in the NRI to help educate residents. Member Hackley inquired if there was a glossary in the current NRI. It was confirmed there was not. Members agreed it would be beneficial.
- **Minutes of July 22, 2020-** Member Gilman made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Alt. Member Hale-de Seve seconded. Chair de Seve abstained. **Motion passed 5-0**

- Chair de Seve wanted to add he had spoken to John Dickey recently. Mr. Dickey would like to conduct small monthly historic meetings at the barn (the Twigg property on Meeting House Rd). Members did not see any issues with this request. Chair de Seve felt this fell in line with the purpose of the easement. Member Gilman inquired if the GCC had ever discussed applying for the moose plate grant to pay for the roof replacement on the barn. Chair questioned whether there were funds available with the Gilmanton Land Trust from the Twigg easement. He believes there was something set aside and would check into this. Member Hackley agreed, he believes there are funds in a Trustee of the Trust funds account; it had been used to repair windows before. He inquired of Admin. Daigneault to look into the account. She would verify with the finance office. Alt. Member Dombrowski suggested receiving other quotes for the barn roof to see if it would cost under \$5,000 and not need an RFP. Chair de Seve agreed other quotes could be received prior to going out to bid. Member Gilman also recommended the NH Preservation Alliance for possible grants for preserving barns. Member Hackley suggested receiving 2-3 references from other customers prior settling on a contractor, as well as a copy of their workers comp. and liability insurance.

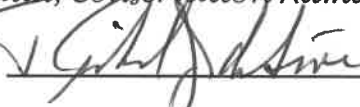
Adjournment

Chairman de Seve closed the meeting at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bre Daigneault, Conservation Admin.

Attested by:



Dick de Seve, Chair

on 9/18/20

Date