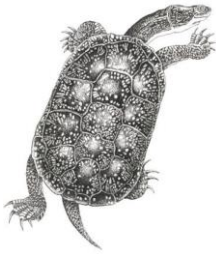


# Gilmanton Conservation Commission

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Minutes of July 13, 2021

**APPROVED**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by Chairman Dick de Seve. Those present included Chairman de Seve, Alternate Member Sue Hale-de Seve, Member Paula Gilman, Alt. Member Thomas Dombrowski, Member Patrick Hackley and along with the Conservation Commission Clerk Bre Daigneault. Alt. Member Barry Christensen and Member Stephen Hopkins were absent. Members of the public attending included Soren Denlinger, Ron O'Connor, Rich Maher, Eric Greenfield, and Lori Baldwin.

Chairman de Seve appointed alternate members Christensen and Dombrowski as voting members for tonight's meeting.

**A. Minutes**

The minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Some minor discussion ensued as to issues raised in the minutes that had been addressed. Member Dombrowski made the motion to accept the minutes. Member Hale-de Seve seconded. **Motion passed 4-0**

**B. Correspondence/Announcements**

Chair de Seve announced two resignations from the Commission due to health/personal issues. Ed Bernstine and Jennifer Baker have submitted their resignations. Ed hopes to continue in a volunteer role and Jennifer Baker hopes to return to the Commission in the future.

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

Members discussed easement monitoring and stewardship. Paula Gilman noted that several kayaks continue to be stored on the shore of Meetinghouse Pond, in violation of the conservation easement that covers that property. Chair de Seve will send a note to the owners of the property, advising them that such storage is not permitted by the easement, and requesting that the kayaks be moved immediately. Chair de Seve briefly explained the monitoring process to several members of the public in attendance.

**D. Wetlands/Shorelands/Biosolid/Intent-to-Cut/Forestry Notifications/Applications-** None

**E. Review of Invoices/Cost/Budget-** None

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

Bre Daigneault had forwarded two Shoreland applications to Commission members for review prior to the meeting. Members had not been able to fully review these applications prior to the meeting but agreed to review them and forward any comments to Bre to forward to the Zoning Board.

**G. Complaints/Violations/Concerns**

Paula Gilman noted two potential problems that had recently arisen. The first is work being done on the site of the old Parish Tavern on Route 107 across from Stage Road. The owners have been clearing an area on which to place a trailer while they further develop the property. Thom Dombrowski had originally noticed the work and Paula had

then met with the owners to determine their intentions and whether any permits had been obtained. Paula then contacted Chair de Seve, who met her and the owners at the property for further discussion. He noted to the owners the extensive wetland near the area they were working on. Dick strongly urged the owner to install silt fencing to protect the wetland before any work proceeded. The owners noted the presence of a number of trees in the way of silt fencing, but Dick stated that the silt fencing still needed to be installed as close as possible to the wetland for protection. The owners agreed.

The second issue concerned a property at the southern end of Gilmanton near the border with Barnstead, also on Route 107. A home is under construction on the property and it appears that the construction may have encroached on a wetland on the property. Paula said she had spoken with a member of the Planning Board who told her that he did not believe that the Board had reviewed any site plan for that property. The Commission agreed that both properties need to be reviewed, and Chair de Seve stated that he would contact Fab Cusson, the new building inspector, to request him to inspect both properties.

#### **H. New Business**

Lori Baldwin discussed a proposal to initiate a subcommittee on trails. She noted the existence of trails on three town forests, and the desire of several residents to develop more trails on both public and private properties, hopefully connecting some of them into a larger trail system. She noted trails on her own property that were heavily used in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic. That usage has continued into 2021 as people discover the outdoors that Gilmanton has to offer. Paula remarked that the Commission has tapped the Betty Smithers Town Forest as the next parcel for trail development during past meetings. Further discussion ensued from members of the public in attendance, including Ron O'Connor and Rich Maher about other areas that seem appropriate for trail development.

The group asked about the process for establishing the subcommittee and whether the group would be considered a public body for purposes of complying with the requirements of RSA 91-A for public meetings and providing minutes of its meetings. Chair de Seve was unsure about the applicability of those requirements and will check the statute and with the Planning administrator to confirm.

Rich Maher, member of the public interested in the trails issue, noted that he is connected to the New Hampshire Charitable Trust and could be of assistance in potentially obtaining grants from that organization for Commission projects.

#### **I. Old Business**

- Allen Property- Members discussed the Allen property briefly, and Paula, Thom and Patrick agreed to walk the property within the next two weeks. Chair de Seve related that he had not had any recent contacts with Mr. Allen but would like to get the property walked and then hope that would revive action on a possible conservation easement on the property.
- 2022 Budget & LUCT- Members discussed the 2022 budget and agreed that we should add funds for matters like training, as the NH Association of Conservation Commissions has offered a number of new training programs and we could all benefit from these programs. We also briefly discussed our desire to increase the GCC share of the Land Use Change Tax, and that Chair de Seve and Patrick Hackley will meet again with the Board of

Selectmen soon to update them on our rationale for that request and to seek their support for a warrant article to that effect.

- NRI Updates- Members discussed the NRI updates, urging all to work to complete their various portions in hopes that we can complete the final update by the end of December, 2021.

**J. Upcoming Dates-**

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be on **Tuesday, August 10, 2021.**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dick de Seve, Chair*