



Gilmanton Conservation Commission

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Minutes of September 14, 2021

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by Chairman Dick de Seve. Those present included Chairman de Seve, Members Sue Hale-de Seve, Paula Gilman, Patrick Hackley, Alt. Members Thomas Dombrowski and Soren Denlinger along with the Conservation Commission Admin. Bre Daigneault. Member Stephen Hopkins joined via Zoom. Member Barry Christensen and Alt. Member Ron O'Connor were absent. There was one member of the public present, John Dickey as representative of the Gilmanton Land Trust.

A. Minutes

The minutes of the August 10, 2021 meeting were reviewed. There were typographical corrections made. Member Gilman made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. Member Hackley seconded. **Motion passed 4-0**

B. Correspondence/Announcements

- There was a brief follow up on prior complaints. The canoes stored on the Meeting House tract- no response from the letter Chair sent and it is unclear if they remain on the lot. The camper and driveway encroaching on wetlands on Province Rd- DES had sent the owners a letter requesting certain items be addressed, no further word on the outcome.
- Gilmanton Land Trust (GLT)- Member of the GLT, John Dickey, wished to discuss the placement of the donor plaque. Mr. Dickey recapped the events that have led to the plaque. It had taken two years of fund-raising efforts to afford to purchase the Frisky Hill parcels as well as the Meeting House parcels. The sales were finalized in 2012. The GLT had a bronze plaque made to commemorate those who donated to the cause. It is a 3'X3' bronze cast plaque. With a lot of searching and finally the help from Mickey Daigle, they were able to find a granite slab large enough and flat enough to place the plaque onto. It has been approximately three years since the plaque has been mounted. The GLT is requesting permission to place the plaque atop Frisky Hill on the Town Conservation Land. He recommends placing it by the existing sign post. There would need to be some larger boulders placed behind it to help it stand up. Chair de Seve felt the current condition of the land atop Frisky Hill would not allow the plaque or the view to be enjoyed by everyone. He requested the Land trust allow for one handicap parking site. The GLT proposal is to now simply place the plaque there. Member Hackley stated he had worked with Fuzz Freese (GLT member) on many versions of the proposed parking. This led to the GCC into believing the GLT was for the proposed parking. They were under the impression the GCC and GLT were working together. Due to the very strong local opposition and lack of support from the Land Trust, he was the deciding vote to vote down the parking area. The only reason he did that is because there is a lot more that unifies the CC than what divides us. Unfortunately, that parking lot was what was dividing them. This was meant to be for the public. Everyone, including those that have mobility issues. All this talk in our culture about equity, diversity, and inclusion, but

when it comes right down to it, people do not want it in their backyard, because they don't want it to spoil their views. A modest parking area with two spots would not ruin the views. The current road does not allow for people to pull over and enjoy the views. It seems the height of hypocrisy to allow a boulder recognizing people that, yes were generous to help but are not being generous about access; they are being exclusive about access. Mr. Dickey feels the GLT had reached a similar impasse as the GCC. The issue of parking had become so divisive. They could see there was so much negativity. He feels they had the same goals. Member Hale-de Seve stated one GCC member had removed herself from the GCC because of this. As a handicap person herself, she could not get out of a car at that location. People would not be able to see the plaque as there is no place to park. Chair de Seve is not willing to move forward without a safe place for people to get out of their car. Mr. Dickey felt this was a good location. From reading the minutes (of the GCC), it felt well received. Chair de Seve feels access needs to be provided. Mr. Dickey stated the GLT has no authority to help the GCC reach that point; it is Town owned land. Chair de Seve stated the easement allows for parking, the public was in full agreement at the time of purchase, the consensus of the GCC was in full agreement, then came personnel changes on the GCC. The plans were dropped for a while; fast forward to today. Member Hopkins did not feel this was an agenda item that should be being discussed. It was voted on a year ago; why is it being discussed again. He recalls the suggestion of the GLT to place the plaque at the barn. Mr. Dickey confirmed it was a suggestion but the GLT wants the plaque on Frisky Hill. Very few people would see it at the barn property. Member Hackley stated it was not just the plaque; there is a horizon sign and they discussed moving the historical marker to the site. He would agree to move the plaque the barn property for now. Member Hackley made the motion to place the plaque on the Meeting House barn property. He feels it is not ideal but it could be a compromise. Member Hale-de Seve made the motion against moving the plaque to the barn property. Member Gilman requested to table the discussion. Scheduling a meeting with the GLT was discussed. Mr. Dickey did not feel this would be beneficial as it is not their decision to make. Chair de Seve moved the motion to complete the parking area as previously presented. Member Hale-de Seve seconded. Mr. Dickey stated the GLT was in favor of the parking to the lower edge of the field. Admin. Daigneault made the recommendation to postpone any further vote as this was not placed on the agenda in such a way to notify the public. Chair de Seve would put it off until the October meeting. All previous motions did not carry forward.

C. Conservation Easements, Monitoring and Stewardship

D. Wetlands/Shorelands/Biosolid/Intent-to-Cut/Forestry Notifications/Applications

E. Review of Invoices/Cost/Budget

F. Planning Board/Zoning Board Applications

G. Complaints/Violations/Concerns

H. New Business

I. Old Business

- NRI- Member Gilman inquired of hiring a consultant to create the document with the updates each member has created. Member Hackley knows some consultants and would ask them for quotes. Member Hopkins feels they should take stock in what they have before sending out to a publisher. Member Hackley suggested circulating the information they currently have, then meet for a workshop to discuss. Members clarified they would be seeking guidance from a content editor not necessarily a consultant.

Other

- Member Hale-de Seve felt the barn event lacked communication to all members, including herself.
- Chair de Seve wished to schedule a date to place the trail sign honoring Ferenc Nagy. He would reach out to the Gilmanton Snowmobile Club to jointly place the sign the second or third Saturday in October.
- Members would look to gather additional information regarding the land use change tax to discuss with Selectmen.
- Member Gilman suggested updating property owner Mark Warren in regards to a recognition of the donated land by the Warren Family. Members had yet to finalize a plan.

J. Upcoming Dates-

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be on **Tuesday, October 12, 2021.**

Adjournment

Member Gilman made the motion to adjourn. Member Hackley seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Bre Daigneault, Conservation Admin.

Attested by: _____ on _____

Dick de Seve, Chair

Date