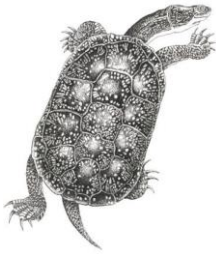


Gilmanton Conservation Commission

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Minutes of October 12, 2021

APPROVED

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Chairman Dick de Seve. Those present included Chairman de Seve, Members Sue Hale-de Seve, Paula Gilman, Barry Christensen, Patrick Hackley, Stephen Hopkins, Alt. Members Thomas Dombrowski, Soren Denlinger, Ron O'Connor, along with the Conservation Commission Admin. Bre Daigneault. There were nine members of the public present.

A. Minutes

The minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting were reviewed. One typographical error was corrected. Member Gilman made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. Member Hopkins seconded. **Motion passed 6-0**

Old Business- Frisky Hill

Chairman de Seve requested members to discuss the business involving the Frisky Hill pull-off/access and the placement of the donor plaque. He stated there would be no public comment this evening. He felt members of the public were there due to a post on Facebook stating there was a public hearing. This was put on there in error. There has been tremendous public testimony and the commission understands where the opinions are. He would be asking members to make a motion and second it, then would have Member Hackley describe how they arrived at the present proposal. Secondly, the donor plaque location would be voted on separately. There would be five members voting (Member Hopkins, as an abutter to the subject property, would be recusing).

Chair de Seve made the motion to accept the pull-off as shown on the sketch dated October 4, 2020. Member Hackley seconded.

Chair de Seve read the language of the easements; the land is to be used for recreational purposes, can be posted against camping, and allows for a parking area not to exceed 5,000 square feet. Member Hackley described the pull-off area per the October 2020 sketch, as well as the history leading up to this point. This sketch was derived by working with the GLT and to accommodate neighbors while allowing the land to be accessible. There is already fill in the area. There would be a place for the plaque and horizon sign. There was a suggestion from GLT to place the historical road marker to that location. Chair de Seve added the easement allows signage for safety, outdoor education and outdoor recreational purposes. Mr. Gillan asked how many new members were on the board since the last vote. Though there was no public comment, the newer members raised their hands. Though there was no public comment, Mr. Gillan felt the new members need to be aware of the statement made by the grantors. Chair de Seve stated the grantors no longer have interest in the property; it is town property and up the commission to use the words placed in the easement. The grantors were well aware of the terms of the easement when signed. Member Hopkins inquired about the cost. Chair de Seve said that they could not get a price without agreeing on the design. Member Hackley stated it would need to go to RFP to determine cost. Member Gilman recalled back to the contentious meeting where the commission came to a tie vote on the subject, but thought there was a tie breaker. Chair de Seve confirmed it was a 2-2 vote. Member Hackley stated no one wants this to divide them, they need to focus on the good work they have to do. He does not feel they are fulfilling their obligation to not add public access to public property on a public road. Member Gilman stated she would not want her land with a conservation easement open to public access.

Chair de Seve rebutted this is public land, not the same as private land. Member Hale-de Seve felt this was public land for the people. Member Gilman stated the GLT had come before the prior meeting for the plaque placement not the parking area. Alt. Member O'Connor inquired if the area had received DOT approval for a driveway and if the area was encroaching on the abutter's land. Chair de Seve felt any setbacks would be met.

Chair de Seve called for a vote for the pull-off on Frisky Hill. **Motion passed 4-1**

Chair de Seve called for a motion to place the donor plaque at the parking area as indicated on the plan. Member Gilman does not want to see the extra signage. Chair de Seve stated this was what was previously planned. Alt. member Dombrowski agreed to the plaque placement but not to other kiosks or the road sign. **Motion passed 4-1**

Member Hopkins would like to address the costs. Member Hackley responded the RFP will determine the costs. Mr. Knibbs felt this was corruption, a personal agenda, and proceeded to leave the meeting.

B. Correspondence/Announcements- None

C. Conservation Easements, Monitoring and Stewardship

Alt. Member Denlinger had emailed Admin. Daigneault monitoring reports just prior to the meeting. She would disperse them for member review.

Chair de Seve announced the trail dedication at Thompson Town Forest in honor of Ferenc Nagy would take place on Saturday, October 30th at 2:00pm at the trailhead.

Member Hackley explained the Land Use Change Tax proposal to residents. It would increase the monies placed in the Conservation Fund from revenue raised by land being removed from current use. They are requesting to increase the LUCT contribution to 50%. They are requesting Selectboard approval. Currently, Gilmanton has one of the lowest contributions in the County.

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

Member Gilman inquired if there were any updates to the complaint on Province Rd. There were no further updates.

The kayaks on the meeting House tract were still present. The owner had sent in a letter stating he would let any renters know the kayaks cannot be left there. Chair de Seve would verify with NHAAC if it is allowable to remove the kayaks.

Member Gilman requested a decision on the Warren signage for the donated land. Member Hackley stated they had discussed putting in a trail on the land and naming it after the Warren family. Alt. Member Dombrowski could make a trail sign. It could also be documented in the forest management plan.

Chair de Seve felt they should look into a forest fund which should be receiving monies from items such as timber cuts on town conservation lands.

E. Review of Invoices/Cost/Budget- None

F. Planning Board/Zoning Board Applications- Admin Daigneault would review and forward to members.

G. Complaints/Violations/Concerns- None

H. New Business- None

I. Old Business

- Allen Property- Members Hackley, Denlinger, and Dombrowski walked portions of the property. They reviewed pictures of the walk. Alt. Member O'Connor could assist with obtaining a copy of the deed. It was inquired if town counsel could be used for the property transfer.

Other- Ms. Carpenter inquired if the commission knew how much land was in conservation. She felt the commission is just now becoming pro-active with conservation lands and allowing for public access. How can the commission request more (lands) if they are not going to stick to the original intentions of a purchase? Member Hackley responded that with the help of Member Hopkins, they have implemented a strategic plan and rated their top priorities, one being the NRI. Also, within the top three was increasing the LUCT. Member Hopkins felt there has been a slowness of the commission to follow up on items.

Mr. Lisk inquired if the Frisky Hill pull-off map was online. The commission did not believe so but could make it available. He also inquired if the Frisky Hill parcels had been surveyed. The commission stated the lands had been surveyed at the time of purchase.

NRI- Chair de Seve would like to schedule a special meeting this month to focus on the NRI. They would look to schedule a day the week of the 25th, as a workshop to go through each section. It was discussed to receive quotes from a consultant to aid in completion.

Upcoming Dates-

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be on **Tuesday, November 9, 2021.**

Adjournment

Chair de Seve made the motion to adjourn. Member Gilman seconded. **Motion passed 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Bre Daigneault, Conservation Admin.

Attested by: _____ on _____

Dick de Seve, Chair

Date