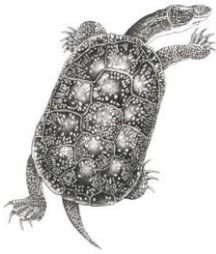


Gilmanton Conservation Commission



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Minutes of November 9, 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, Members Sue Hale-de Seve, Paula Gilman, Barry Christensen, Alt. Members Thomas Dombrowski, Soren Denlinger, Ron O'Connor, along with the Conservation Commission Admin. Bre Daigneault. Members absent were Patrick Hackley and Stephen Hopkins. There were six members of the public present.

A. Minutes

The minutes of the October 12, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Typographical errors were corrected. Member Christensen made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. Member Hale-de Seve seconded. **Motion passed 4-0**

The minutes of the October 26, 2021 workshop were reviewed. Chair de Seve made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Member Denlinger seconded. **Motion passed 4-0**

B. Correspondence/Announcements

Lori Baldwin, Chair of the Conservation Trails Sub-committee wanted to update the GCC with action items from the Trail's last meeting. She also inquired of the subcommittee's role in updating the NRI. Chair de Seve felt the subcommittee could review the existing NRI and what changes are being recommended, and respond with any proposed amendments. Ms. Baldwin stated Trail's has met with the Gilmanton Snowmobile Assoc. and has contacted the town forester, Ron Klemarczyk, to meet the subcommittee and hear what their objectives are. It was unknown whether there would be a cost associated for the town forester. The subcommittee had also met with members of the Gilmanton Land Trust. The Urner trail has been blazed and ready to go with the exception of two small bridges which will need to be built. She would like to see an area on the Meeting House property to direct a place for people to park. Ms. Baldwin inquired about expenses for trail work; could they submit receipts for expenses? Chair de Seve felt the Conservation Fund could be utilized for expenses. Member Hale-de Seve inquired about trail maps. The subcommittee has prioritized other locations to include: the Cogswell network and Jones Mills trail. Member Denlinger has made a draft map for the Urner trail. They will be reviewing this at upcoming meetings. The current Cogswell map has old skid trails that no longer exist; those would be removed from the updated map.

C. Conservation Easements, Monitoring and Stewardship

Chair de Seve would reconnect with Paul Osborne of the Snowmobile Assoc. to review work being done to the trails over conservation lands. Member Dombrowski thought the Assoc. was intending to start work.

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

Intents to cut were briefly reviewed for four properties: Sargent Rd, Province Rd, Hussey Rd, and NH Rte. 140.

E. Review of Invoices/Cost/Budget

Admin. Daigneault stated she had received invoices from NH Electric Coop for the Meeting House barn. It would be reviewed whether keeping the power on over the winter would benefit

in any way. Chair de Seve would check with the Historical Society to ensure they are not utilizing the property over the winter months.

F. Planning Board/Zoning Board Applications

Admin. Daigneault stated there are no new cases this month for either board. She updated the commission on the status of the Bear Investment property on the corner of Route 106 and Allens Mill Rd.

G. Complaints/Violations/Concerns

One complaint had come in regarding property in Valley Shores with a potential violation on conservation land. The complainant felt there had been test pits dug and left open, but did not provide a location. Both Chair de Seve and Admin. Daigneault had contacted the complainant for more information. No response was given.

Admin. Daigneault requested to return to costs and invoices. Members Gilman and Dombrowski had recently inquired about being reimbursed for costs of materials for trail signs they would be constructing. Chair de Seve stated the expenses could be paid from the Conservation Fund and to submit receipts.

H. New Business

Alt. Member Denlinger presented a draft copy of the updated conservation lands map. He requested members review for incorrect information or typos. He would email a copy for all to review.

I. Old Business

Chair de Seve stated there was a miscommunication between the sign maker and he for the trail sign for Ferenc; he had not solidified the order last winter. Since that time, the cost of materials has increased and the sign would now cost \$370, up from \$300. Chair de Seve asked Alt. Member Dombrowski for consideration in making the sign. Member Hackley has a post they can utilize and materials would be reimbursed.

Member Gilman stated windows needed to be secured at the Tom Howe Barn (on Meeting House Rd). Chair de Seve would inquire with John Dickey, as he is familiar with the barn. Member Christensen inquired about repair that needed to be done on the barn in order to make it eligible for the historic register list. Member Gilman stated the roof has been done, but there are windows that need repair, the door needs securing, and the barn would need to be thoroughly inspected for other items needing repair. Once accepted to the NH Historic Register, it would then allow for applications for moose plate grants. Members would review steps needed to proceed.

Member Gilman had been in contact with a title agency regarding an estimate for a title search for the Allen property. Additional information was needed for an accurate estimate. Chair de Seve inquired if it would be appropriate to utilize town counsel for the title search. Admin. Daigneault would reach out to counsel.

Member Gilman inquired if there was an update to the camper on the lot of the old Parish Tavern. The camper had been removed from the lot the prior day. There was continued concern with the close proximity to the wetlands.

Chair opened the meeting to members of the public in attendance. Resident Jade Badger stated they are all residents of Willowgrass Ln. and are concerned with discussion of a parking lot and trail head being placed on the Warren parcel. They are looking for updates to the plan and proposed timeframe. Member Gilman stated it would not happen soon and any impact would be minimum. She inquired if there was any other access to the Betty Smithers Town Forest. Admin. Daigneault stated there is not. The potential exists if the Allen tract is gifted. Chair de Seve stated before anything happens, something would be drawn up. Ms. Badger inquired if the residents would have input. She feels the location and terrain is not a good place for a trail. Alt. Member Denlinger stated he had walked the property this past spring and it is steep going in, however, there are trail blazing techniques that would get around that. At this time, that is the only public access to the conserved area. It is not too steep to prevent access; utilizing switchbacks or bench the trail in. Chair de Seve stated that once that was figured out, it would go on the agenda. He recommended keeping in touch with the commission and office staff. Resident Ari Osman asked of the goal for creating a trail head; is it access to the walking trails? Chair de Seve stated it would be for access to the walking trails within the Betty Smithers Town Forest. Mr. Osman inquired if there was to be a parking area. Member Gilman affirmed there would need to be parking. Mr. Osman asked if the commission had read the restrictive covenants for the property. He feels there is pretty distinct language as to what is acceptable in terms of signage, trailers, and structures needed to meet certain building requirements. He was concerned with snowmobile trailers. Member Gilman stated the access would not be for snowmobiles; strictly for pedestrian access. Ms. Badger asked how the Town Forest is accessed now. Alt. Member Denlinger stated it was from Willowgrass Ln. Owners were concerned with additional traffic. Alt. member Denlinger imagined the owners had walked back there, the land is beautiful, and it is owned by all residents in the town. The public should have some reasonable access to it. There was discussion regarding the recognition sign and placement of. Alt. Member Denlinger stated that parking at other town forests, Thompson and Ella Stroud, there are never more than two cars there. Chair stated any parking would be at a minimum, it would not be black-topped, or be overly impacted. Mr. Osman again inquired about the restrictions on the land. Alt Member Denlinger believes the language in the land the town owns would be different from that of the private property owners. The commission would review the terms of the easement and adhere to any restrictions. Mr. Osman asked who would be maintaining the parking area. Chair de Seve responded it would not be paved and would not take much maintenance. Trash was a concern of residents. Members have not seen a problem with trash at any other town owned forest. Resident Miranda Reyes stated they were completely against a parking lot. Would they have a say? Their property abuts directly next to this area. They are concerned with lights at night. Ms. Badger has concern with children riding bikes in the quiet area. The residents inquired if they would have their opinion heard during the decision-making process. The commission stated they would listen to abutters and work with them. Admin. Daigneault stated this was in very preliminary stages. She has not heard the commission discuss any development in detail. The donor to this portion of land had recently requested a recognition sign; there had been no additional discussions or plans. She recommended members of the public follow the agendas for future discussions. Chair de Seve added that site walks would also be posted.

Other Business

- LUCT- The Selectmen will be discussing warrant articles with the Budget Committee on December 1st. It is recommended to seek approval from the Selectmen at their next meeting on November 15th.

- Commission numbers- Members would write a warrant article to change the commission members from 6 to 7. This would prevent tie votes in the future.
- NHEC- The electrical bill at the barn would be reviewed. Chair de Seve would speak with the Historical Society about the usage. Admin. Daigneault would look into options for leaving the power on or requesting a pause in service for the winter months.

Upcoming Dates-

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be on **Tuesday, December 14, 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