



Gilmanton Conservation Commission

PO Box 550, Gilmanton NH 03237-0550

Richard de Seve, Chairman
Patrick Hackley, Member
Stephen Hopkins, Member
Paula Gilman, Member
Susan Hale-de Seve, Member
Thomas Dombrowski, Member
Ron O'Connor, Member
Bre Daigneault, Com. Dev. Dir.

MINUTES APPROVED

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Academy Building, 503 Province Road, Gilmanton, NH

Members in attendance include Chair Dick de Seve, Members Sue Hale-de Seve, Paula Gilman, Thom Dombrowski, Ron O'Connor and Stephen Hopkins along with staff Lauraine Paquin.

Absent was member Patrick Hackley.

Public present were Lori Baldwin and Charlie Townsend.

Call to Order at 6:05pm.

A. **Review of Minutes** – September 14, 2022

Member Dombrowski motioned to accept. Seconded by Member Gilman. **All in favor, Motion passed 6-0.**

B. **Correspondence/Announcements**

- Chair de Seve read the upcoming planning board agenda. He went over the updated sketch regarding Frisky Hill parking area. Member Gilman doesn't see the need for the kiosk, signage or the peak identifier. She would just like the plaque on the boulder. Chair de Seve stated Member Hackley will begin the process for a driveway permit. Member Gilman asked who is paying for the parking lot. Chair de Seve replied the Commission is and we will begin the process for bids. Member Hopkins stated to keep it simple as less is more. Member Dombrowski asked why the kiosk and peak can't be on one sign. Chair de Seve agreed but stated the plaque is the most important. Member Hopkins stated the rock is more of a natural surrounding and we don't need to take away from the landscape with signs.
- Lori Baldwin, Trails Subcommittee Update
Ms. Baldwin asked if there will be a mockup of the plaque for the public. Member Gilman stated the plaque is already made and Micky Daigle has been holding on to it. Ms. Baldwin went over a vacancy on the board. She spoke about meeting with the library and the school. The library held an outing on October 7 to walk the trails and see the improvements. The summit trail work has gotten to a point that it is too much work for the trail people. The Trails Subcommittee Board has agreed to go back to Ron Klemarczyk as he made the original bid to do that work. His cost estimate was \$550 up to double that amount based on how many days. Gary Ambelas has agreed to pay 1/2 of the cost that is incurred. Member Dombrowski stated there is another entity he believes is willing to do the work for a 1/3 of that. Member Hopkins asked if Mr. Klemarczyk was insured and Chair de Seve stated he was and has done a lot of work in town. Ms. Baldwin explained the trail monitoring process is daunting as they have a lot of questions, like is this a legal document and Chair de Seve stated, "it is not". She asked if the document they have fulfill SPNHF's and Five Rivers requirements and Chair de Seve believes the document came from SPNHF. He will check with SPNHF as he had a



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question into them previously regarding formal training. Ms. Baldwin clarified for the monitoring process that all property owners need to be notified and Chair de Seve stated, “yes”. He also stated there are GPS devices that can be used for that process. Ms. Baldwin mentioned the trails subcommittee would like to sit with someone to make sure they know what they are doing and would also like to see the last monitoring report. Member Gilman stated she is going next week with Sarah and Tracy to do the Christie monitoring. Member Dombrowski stated he and Rich Maher found the Easton Trail, that others haven’t been able to find, and went out to the east summit. They are in the process of making a spur trail to the Easton Trail from the main trail so they don’t have to go across the field.

Frank Allen owns the property that the summit is on and has no problem if Mr. Klemarczyk is hired to open the summit. Lou Lane trail is overgrown so Gary Ambelas is going to work with the trails people to open that up.

Ms. Baldwin stated they really concentrated on the trails that the library and school utilize so they now are moving towards working on the summit to create a loop for the trail. They are also going to work on areas that need to be reopened up so they can be accessed. Member Dombrowski stated the main trail kiosk is finished. Ms. Baldwin stated they have four signs left to put up for the trails.

- Charlie Townsend, who mows the Christie property on Rte. 140, stated the field is getting smaller every year due to vegetation overgrowth and invasive species around the edges as well as debris and limbs on the ground. He doesn’t mind maintaining the growth but he doesn’t have any means to get rid of it. He can make piles and burn it unless the commission has means to remove it. There are also over 30 dead ash trees between his property and the conservation property. There are six of them on Rte 140 that are under the power lines. NH Electric Coop will not remove them as they are in the service drop but those trees will eventually have to be addressed. Member Gilman mentioned they should ask Mr. Klemarczyk if he would be willing to cut those trees. Mr. Townsend stated NH Electric Coop can drop the line so the trees can be removed but that comes at a cost. Chair de Seve asked Mr. Townsend if he can get an estimate of what that cost would be. Member Hopkins asked would the invasive species spread if burnt. Member Dombrowski stated he didn’t think it would if they did it in the winter. Mr. Townsend stated normally the only way it would spread if the seeds drop on the ground while removing it. Member Gilman mentioned she is going out to that property next week. Mr. Townsend stated the trail is a mess from the microburst a few years ago. Member Dombrowski didn’t see why the piles couldn’t be burnt. Member Gilman suggested the wood could be hauled to a central area on property for members of the community to come take. Member Hopkins stated people would come and just pick through it. Chair de Seve was leery of people coming onto conservation land with chainsaws. Mr. Townsend clarified that it is ok to pile up the debris and invasive species so he can burn it. The commission were in agreement to burn it. Mr. Townsend asked if an arborist had been to the summit to see if you can prune rather than remove trees. Member Dombrowski stated Mr. Klemarczyk has been out there but the land owner wants the summit cleared.



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- 83 C. **Conservation Easement Monitoring and Stewardship** – see above
84 D. **Wetland/Shoreland/Biosolid/Intent-to-Cut/Forestry Notifications/Applications** – None
85 E. **Review of Invoices/Costs/Budget** – Chair de Seve signed two invoices and Mr. Townsend
86 handed in an invoice. Member Gilman talked about getting a plaque now that the Tom Howe
87 Barn is on the Historic Registry. It is \$85 and maybe the commission and the Historic
88 Society would each pay half. Chair de Seve motioned the Conservation Commission will
89 pay half the cost. Seconded by Member Hopkins. **All in favor, Motion passed 6-0.**
90 Member Gilman also stated John Hall will be donating the granite post to put it on. Chair de
91 Seve confirmed Member Hackley has all the materials for the Tom Howe Barn kiosk and
92 should have it done before winter.
93 F. **Planning Board/Zoning Board Applications** – Chair de Seve went over the Zoning Board
94 agenda.
95 G. **Complaints/Violations/Concerns** – Chair de Seve stated he got a message to call a Mr.
96 Souza who lives on Rte 129, so he will reach out to him.
97 H. **New Business** – Chair de Seve mentioned the new conservation applicant form was good to
98 go with the changes from the last meeting. Member Gilman suggested the document “What
99 do Conservation Commissions Do” should be given out with the application and Chair de
100 Seve agreed. Chair de Seve went over the current town forest ordinance along with the
101 document that Member Gilman collated from her research of three other towns. Member
102 Gilman mentioned the forest maps may need to be adjusted due to the Allen donation, Bolton
103 donation, the William Webster and Warren Family donation? Chair de Seve is not sure if
104 some of the forests have actually been designated town forests. He mentioned the
105 commission might want to do a warrant article to add some of these for next year. Member
106 Gilman stated she will redo the documents and bring to the next meeting. Member Gilman
107 stated she really wants to make sure they have something regarding metal detecting on
108 historic land. Chair de Seve stated they need to look up the RSA to see if it mentions land on
109 the National Historic Register. Chair de Seve asked, for the horseback riding, who is going
110 to determine which trails it is not allowed on and who will enforce that. He is more
111 concerned about the motorized vehicles. Chair de Seve questioned if the term artifact is
112 defined by statute. If not, then they can do a definition. Member Gilman mentioned they can
113 do a sign with pictures of the artifacts that cannot be touched. Member Hopkins just wanted
114 to make sure changes get made. Member Dombrowski suggested we reach out to the
115 corrections department to see if they can make the signs. He also suggested that they take
116 out offensive language under prohibiting conduct.
117 Chair de Seve had a conversation with SPNHF regarding the town holding an easement and
118 the land. He was told that the town can transfer the easement to SPNHF but the cost is about
119 \$20K. The town can hold the fee and easement with SPNHF holding executory interest.
120 There isn't any issue with the town accepting the gift of the fee ownership of the Allen
121 property. Member Gilman suggested to have that put in writing in case it comes up again.
122 Member Hopkins asked what is the conflict. Chair de Seve stated that the town and SPNHF
123 enforce the easement. If a town official does something that violates the easement, then the
124 enforcement fails unless SPNHF gets notified. Member Gilman again suggested to get that
125 in writing so Chair de Seve will reach out to get that.



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126 Chair de Seve motioned to send the documents to the Selectman to accept the Allen property.
127 Member Dombrowski seconded. **All in favor, Motion passed 6-0.** Member Dombrowski
128 clarified which tract this was again. He also asked about Frank's tract and Chair de Seve
129 stated it is not Frank's tract as it is his understanding that Frank does not want to deed to
130 town now but is considering it for the future. Currently, Frank holds the fee and the
131 commission has the easement.

132 **I. Old Business – NRI Report**

133 Chair de Seve hasn't done the forestry section yet that he promised Member Hackley he
134 would do but will get it done. They need to send the written part to the Corrections Dept. to
135 get an estimate. Member Gilman asked if the photos should be included and Chair de Seve
136 stated, 'yes'. He suggested Member Gilman look at photos and put in any others but not too
137 many. Member Gilman asked if this should be dedicated to Tom & Nancy. Chair de Seve
138 suggested she reach out to Nancy and Member Hopkins agreed that in this case you should
139 ask for permission not forgiveness. Member Gilman stated they didn't get the grant for
140 Seven to Save but she is still trying for the Moose Plate grant.

141 **J. Upcoming Dates**

142 Next Conservation Commission Meeting: November 1, 2022

143 Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

144 Respectfully Submitted, Richard de Seve, Chairman