GILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes for February 1, 2022

Conference Room A and GoToMeeting Video Conference

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

Present were: Chairman- Carole Hall, Vice Chairman - Lee Duncan; Regular Members Doug Hill, Tom Drouin and Robert Brown.

Absent members were: Regular member Larry Routhier

CALL TO ORDER:​ Chairman-Carole Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.​

ESTABLISH A QUORUM:​ Carole Hall announced that a quorum was present.​

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by T. Drouin, seconded by L. Duncan to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Laconia Airport Authority pre-application discussion request for initial feedback for completion of perimeter fencing at airport, agent Jennifer Riordan, GM2 Senior Environmental Scientist, was present as well as Marv Everson, and Chand Eddy of the Laconia Airport Authority and John Gorham from Jacobs Engineering are were present as well.

D. Hill said that what he read is that the current fence proposal is not on the easement, so that is not relevant.

J. Riordan went over the proposal for everyone. The airport is looking to install the remainder fence on the eastern and southern section of the airport. She displayed and described the plan for the fence. We are revisiting the project with a new plan that minimizes the impacts. The last application had been denied by the state. The purpose is to prevent large animals to go onto the property. The airport had a wildlife assessment and the critical assessment was to complete the fence.

M. Everson said that it about a year ago, we discussed the perimeter of the wildlife fence, and it is something that we need and we need to figure out a way to make it happen. He said that they have deer, bear, moose, and coyote that will require a fence, but that the fence won’t do a thing for the geese, bobcats, and turkeys.

J. Riordan stated that the Prime wetland #13 it shown as the green diagonal hatch marked on the plan, and Meadow Brook flows through the area as well. So, if the project moves forward we will have to do a functional assessment on that and on the wetlands.

She went over the 2013 denial and that in 2014 the airport did receive a permit to install sections of the fence, which they did put in. So, this current lay out is trying to minimize those impacts. They are looking for the Conservation members thoughts on the proposal.

C. Hall was wondering if they could be more specific on where you see the animals crossing or if there is a corridor where they travel.

M. Everson said that we don’t have that, but they do cross Meadow Brook and come onto the airport and frequently get trapped inside the fence, but he can’t leave that fence open all the time for security purposes.

J. Riordan said had asked for a wildlife moving area maps, but there were none.

C. Hall said that the people were concerned with the animals going into the airport and Route 11 and do see this proposal helping stop that.

J. Riordan stated that the old fence lay out was closer to Route 11, but there is a little space to move along the side of the property

D. Hill wanted to know who would make the call on ROFA. J. Riordan said that the FAA would make the call on the ROFA

D. Hill said that after you file your applicator with the NHDES we will have this conversation again said D. Hill. This proposal is a lot better than cutting through. Its easier site to look at all you have to do is slow down.

C. Hall stated that our role would be to recommend or not recommend approval. If you do your best to minimize it, you will go a long way.

C. Eddy said that they have also seen a great increase coming into the airport particularly a turbine traffic.

L. Duncan asked if the method of anchoring had changed at all.

J. Riordan replied that that it was 4’ burial, but it hasn’t changed much, 2’ in wetland and 4’ upland at an angle.

Al Rollins said that he keeps a plane at the airport. He was wondering if there was any thought of discussion with the Howe’s about a land swap or something. C. Hall said that it’s already a conservation easement. D. Hill said that it’s a separate parcel but it’s not buildable.

M. Everson said that reading the notes from 2013, the Howe’s were willing, but the society wouldn’t release it. They were written into the notes, so that’s why we are moving away from the road.

R. Brown asked if the FAA have any interest in this fence. M. Everson replied absolutely and they are behind this 100%.

C. Hall asked what the feeling of the board on this was.

L. Duncan said that it looks good, but his question would be how the new delineation would affect this proposal.

R. Brown said that this is a good proposal.

D. Hill said that you should get some game cameras up and fish and game could probably help you with that. M. Everson said that they do have plenty of pictures of the wildlife.

R. Brown asked if you had an evidence as to how many turbines, maybe showing the amount/percentage that has changed or some proof of whatever that it is today. C. Eddy said that its gone up about 50%.

T. Drouin said there is no doubt in his mind that we need that fence up and its well over due.

C. Hall asked if they went over the reasons for denial and were able to address all of those with this proposal. C. Hall said that everyone wants it minimized, but they are also worried about public safety

D. Hill was wondering if you could hire a wildlife consultant, or biologist. C. Eddy responded that they could maybe have fish and game come out and take a look.

C. Hall thanked them all for coming in.

**NON-PUBLIC:**

Non-public Session Per RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

Motion made by L. Duncan to go into non-public, seconded by T. Drouin. Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion was made in non-public to come out of non-public, no vote or action was taken

for the record in non-public.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Rollins said that the last time he was here the members discussed the view shed at Gunstock and part of the master plan development of the area and wanting to preserve that. And keeping it a picturesque part of Gilford, so he went through the NRI and he found an error on page 6 or 7.

They decried the slope, and it should be 100 feet and in the diagram of the steep slopes, it does give a correct answer. It’s something that should be corrected, maybe with an addendum.

C. Hall asked if he could put it together and send it to her.

A. Rollins said that the other thing is that the NRI isn’t very specific with regard to scenic views.

He read the towns master plan and that doesn’t say very much either. The survey that was taken identified ridgelines as very important to the people in the town.

T. Drouin nominated Al Rollins to be a member of the Conservation Commission.

APPLICATIONS - none

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Map for Weeks Parcel - parking plan

D. Hill said that they met a couple of times with the Meghan Theriault, DPW Director.

R. Brown made a sketch of the proposal. He said that we decided to use the existing location that is already disturbed, with minimal impact visually to the site to have the 5 parking spaces,

and we concluded to use the same driveway. The least disturbed is to have turn in parking right off the driveway. She looked at it and sent me a set of basic specs of the project. Grubbing it out 18” filling it with appropriate aggregate to create a drainable surface, and to do it in the simplest possible way. She also said that if there are materials available we would be able to use them. If we need to pay for materials, then we would do so.

We will need to go to the Planning Board to present this proposal.

1. Site Review update

C. Hall said that she did not go to the last meeting, but she did go over what was in her packet.

3. Conservation Fund Status

L. Duncan and C. Hall discussed the fund.

C. Hall discussed thank you notes with regard to the donations made for John Goodhue and should we list the amount that was donated. T. Drouin didn’t think that we needed to get that specific.

4. Other - nothing at this time

CORRESPONDENCE/ WORKSHOP

C. Hall went over the latest correspondence for the members.

MINUTES

January 4, 2022 minutes.

C. Hall stated that R. Brown needed to be changed from an alternate to a regular member.

T. Drouin recused himself.

Motion made by D. Hill, seconded by L. Duncan to approve the minutes of January 4, 2022 with the amendment. Motion carried with all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by T. Drouin, seconded by R. Brown to adjourn the meeting of February 1, 2021 at 8:44 pm. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hart, Technical Assistant