GILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes for March 2, 2021

Conference Room A and Zoom Video Conference

Under the emergency order provision related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Steering Committee Members present: Russell Wilder, Weston Bosworth, Al Rollins, Mark Kinnicutt and David Mallard, Larry Routhier, Doug Hill and Carole Hall Conservation Commission Chair

D. Hill said that at the last meeting, the parking was discussed and we thought about moving the curb cut a bit south so that it’s not so steep. It would be easier to have the initial grade to get up to that higher grade. He’s arranged to meet Meghan Theriault, Department of Public Works Director on site and will let you know what happens. His thoughts were to discuss a parking area for like 8 cars and to not have a bus turn around.

Al was wondering how much demand there would be for that. Maybe we should wait and see what happens for now; he was just thinking 2 or 3 spaces for now.

L. Routhier said to ask what the difference in cost would be with regard to having 2 or 8 parking spaces. Maybe we should ask Megan, DPW Director when she goes out there.

When we get further in the planning process, C. Hall said that she would discuss it with the selectmen because they might want to say something or want to be part of the planning. D Hill said yes we should definitely do that particularly if we can get some support.

R. Wilder was wondering if we could plow this area in the winter. A. Rollins said that you might have to have an exit if that’s the case. We could have access parking on the grass. R. Wilder replied only if we allow it. A. Rollins you could but it would depend on where the fence goes.

C. Hall was wondering if it would need to go before the Planning Board. D. Hill said that the town is exempt from its regulations.

R. Wilder said that we are really just building a driveway to access the property.

D. Hill we just don’t want a large parking area, if we have to we can always ferry people over. He said that the field is grown up and the saplings are starting to grow in. It had been mowed up until 10 or so years ago. Most recently, someone in the Weeks family mowed the lower field. A. Rollins said that it should be mowed this year.

D. Hill said that we should probably find someone local that could do it for a reasonable price. They agreed that it would need to be mowed this summer.

We also need someone that can identify the shrubs that are a good habitat and those that are invasive. R. Wilder asked if T. Nolin would be able to that? D. Hill we can ask him but he’s not a biologist. C. Hall said that she’s spoked with Lisa Morin and they do have someone in mind but she doesn’t recommend just one person.

D. Hill asked if everyone had the Weldon Bosworth map, members discussed the map.

R. Wilder said that there is a well-beaten path to the iron mine. If you haven’t read about it, you should search for the Gilford Iron Mine said A. Rollins.

We could look it up and maybe add that information to the kiosk.

C. Hall wanted to know if everyone wanted to meet again in two weeks or did they want to wait. R. Wilder said that maybe we should wait a bit longer. D. Hill said that maybe we should wait until after his meeting with the DPW Director and C. Hall meets with Lisa Morin.

Also, we need the report once T. Nolin is done and he probably won’t get to that until May or so.

Motion made by C. Hall, seconded by R. Wilder to nominate D. Hill for chair of the steering committee. Motion carried.

Motion made by L. Routhier, seconded by D. Hill to nominate R. Wilder for co-chair

steering committee. Motion carried.

D. Hill declared the meeting over at 6:58 pm.

C. Hall announced that there wasn’t a quorum for the Conservation Commission to hold their meeting, so they would be postponing until March 16, 2021.