

Present: Van Webb, chair, Tim Fleury, vice chair, Ginny Gwynn, treasurer, Cliff Fields, Sylvia Kellner, Barbara Chalmers.

Absent: Doug Hanson

Meeting at Town Hall called to order by Van Webb at 7:00 PM.

1. MINUTES

- Sep minutes. **Motion** by Tim to accept minutes, 2nd by Ginny. Cliff abstained. Vote unanimous in favor.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Ginny reported on accounts, noting Con Com Fund is at \$235,808 with the 2022 land use change tax. She will get the amount of anticipated 2023 tax for budgeting 2024 at our Nov meeting, but so far only \$6500 in tax has come in. Con Com General Fund stands at \$2,910. She will check on status of 2023 SPNHF and A-S membership payments.
Motion by Barbara to accept the treasurer's report, 2nd by Cliff. Vote unanimous in favor.

3. INVOICES - none

4. MAIL

DES Violation & Alleged Violation letters: No correspondence recently from DES.

DES Permit Apps: No new applications. Capshaw and Vinick lake wall rebuilds are in review.

Barbara noted that the Con Com's new DES permit Excel database will be coordinated with the Planning/Zoning permit database maintained by Allyson Traeger. **Action by Barbara**

5. VISITORS

- David Kaicher of Otter Hill Road and Liz Thompson brought in a sample of the invasive plant Mile-a-Minute weed found on his property. He has not observed it elsewhere in his neighborhood. The plant may have started from a bird dropping. State invasives expert Doug Cygan recommended berry removal. David did this and dug up the root. Con Com will get word out about the presence of this weed to Sunapee Gardeners and on our website. **Action by Barbara**
- Matthias Nevins, forester with MeadowsEnd, see Dewey Woods Meadow Restoration project below.
- Jeff Kellner, Sylvia's husband attended the meeting and may have interest in the vacant commission seat.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- Dewey Woods Meadow Restoration: Matthias Nevins discussed planning for restoration project, noting goals of restoring the field and removing edge trees now posing a safety hazard. This will secondarily re-establish the historic lake and mountain views from the meadow. There are some scattered invasive plants on the site to manage. Matthias has contacted NHDOT regarding trimming within the Route 11 RoW, and if no merchantable timber is removed, they have no issue. Matthias will follow-up with DOT permission in writing. **Action by Matthias.**
Matthias has met with Mike Martell re use of Sunapee Highway Dept. stock pile area / old dump for use as a log landing/chipping site this winter for the limited time the project will take. Mike is supportive and is also interested in having edge trees cut back. Matthias contacted NHDOT and determined that the town owns the old Georges Mills Road. Barbara is researching whether the town de-classified the old road from Class 5 to 6, but so far has found no information that this was done. Trees cut on town storage site land would have a separate intent to cut timber filing.

We will advise the town manager and meet with selectmen at their Oct 16 meeting to inform them on the project. Van to contact Shannon regarding this and our public out-reach meeting. **Action by Van**

We will conduct a public out-reach and information site walk on Monday Nov 6 at 1 PM and get information out on the web and local newspaper. **Action by Barbara**

Tim will continue to keep abutter Brian Garland informed on the project and get signed permission to cross the corner of his land for temporary skid road. **Action by Tim**

Goal is for Matthias to contact logging companies and issue public bid docs during November. **Action by Matthias**

Matthias to send current billing prior to our November meeting. **Action by Matthias**

- NRI Action Plan:
 - Invasives Mapping: Ginny noted that Knotweed is everywhere in town and will only get worse. Mike Martell is interested in beginning to address this. Ginny is getting information from two NH towns that have established control programs.
 - Build-out analysis: Ask Olivia about cost and if she can provide a sample of one? Ask Michael Marquis if this has ever been done before in town. **Pending**
 - What are Sunapee's existing "Low Impact Development" provisions of zoning? What could be added to supplement it? **Pending**
 - Wetlands Overlay District: Review by Michael Marquis w/ a Com Com member re wetlands ordinance. **Pending**
 - Vernal Pool mapping: Barbara continues to note locations when pools found. **Pending**
- View Easement at Ryder Corner Road: This is in hands of town manager for legal assistance to word easement to protect town interests. **Pending**
- Peer Review Meeting: Barbara reported September meeting discussed Relax Inc. improvements to Route 103-Depot Road site had proceeded without approvals causing a cease-and-desist order to be issued. A wetland is on part of the site to be developed in 2nd phase. It is being mapped and will likely impact site development. At the Springfield Road, a proposed garage is within the wetlands setback, requiring a variance. Since the garage could be moved closer to the road and mostly out of the setback, Barbara urged this approach.
- Update on Tree Stand Removal & Right-of-way: Town right-of-way over Samalis property and at Keyes Road is in hands of town manager for legal assistance.
- QR Code for Rec Use Data: User counts are being logged. Barbara will check with Allyson at town hall for update. **Action by Barbara**
- Proposed Dog Park: No new information.
- Commission Vacancy: Vacancy was publicly noticed.
- Snowmobile trail at Ledge Pond Town Forest: We need to stabilize the site. All agreed that professional assistance is needed to determine best fix, then funds can be budgeted for corrective work. Van will contact Doug Gamsby. Cliff will reach out to snowmobile club to advise them of the issue, possible trail closure during wet winter period, and for assistance. **Action by Van and Cliff**

New Business

- Ridge Line Protection: Ginny informed the commission that Suzanne Tether is discussing ridge line protection with the Sunapee Planning and Zoning boards for possible zoning amendment for March warrant. Suzanne is looking for Con Com support. Ridge protection reduces erosion, helps maintain water quality, and preserves historic viewsheds. Barbara assembled a table of Sunapee's hills with hilltop elevations and status of development and protection to assist Suzanne in fact gathering. Ginny noted that Suzanne was out of town or would have attended our meeting and will attend next month.
- 2023 Conservation Land (LCHIP) Monitoring: Van has contacted MeadowsEnd for annual monitoring as they have done in the past.
- 2023 NH Assoc of Conservation Commissions Meeting: Ginny is interested in attending. Cost will be covered by our budget. Ginny to attend October 25 Ausbon-Sargent roundtable.
- SFD Grant Support: The Fire Department has asked for support as they go after a grant to replace two old trucks with a fuel conserving and low-emissions vehicle. Con Com is supportive. Van will write a letter of support and send to Steve Marshall of the fire department. **Action by Van**

Meeting adjourned 9 PM.

Next Meeting: Nov 1 at 7 P 4M

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chalmers, secretary