

Present: Van Webb, chair, Tim Fleury, vice chair, Cliff Field, Doug Hanson, Barbara Chalmers with Jeff Kellner and Ginny Gwynn by zoom

Visitors: Matthias Nevins, Wendy Nolin, Allyson Traeger

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

1. MINUTES

- December minutes: Ginny recommended amending the minutes for invoice 2023-1093 of \$1,100 to denote approved payment was split \$230.65 from professional services and \$869.35 from Conservation Commission Fund. **Motion** by Doug to accept amended minutes, 2nd by Cliff. Vote unanimous in favor.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Ginny's report was included in the meeting agenda. She noted that the 2023 Current Use Change Tax to the Con Com totaled \$103,726.56. Van asked if the 2024 Conservation Commission Fund request to selectmen was correct at \$55,000? Ginny and Allyson confirmed this. **Motion** by Barbara to accept the treasurer's report, 2nd by Doug. Vote unanimous in favor.
- From Nov; Is Dewey Woods Fund a bank account and/or an expendable Trust Fund?
Action by Ginny

3. INVOICES

- MeadowsEnd #2023-1107 for \$1,100, Dewey Woods Meadow Restoration consulting. **Motion** by Barbara to pay this invoice from 2024 professional services account, 2nd by Doug. Vote unanimous in favor.

4. MAIL

- DES Permit Applications:
Mountainview Lake, 77 Rte 103, cottage replacement with limited encroachment to wetland on neighbor's land.
- DES Violation / Letter of Deficiency: Bolsinger, no response yet to Con Com requested copy of restoration plan.

5. VISITORS

- Wendy Nolin attended the meeting to find out more about the Conservation Commission and may be interested in filling the vacant alternate spot.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- Dewey Woods Meadow Restoration: Matthias Nevins provided an update. He has met with White's forester. A temporary wetland crossing permit app will be submitted after signature. Contract documents with insurance certificate have been sent to the town. MeadowsEnd is holding White's performance bond. A waiver may be needed for cutting along Rte 11 right of way depending on total basal area. Allyson confirmed contract has been signed. Timber tax waiver will be finalized when the tax assessor is next in the office. Barbara noted that the butter tub shop building has been removed by the Stockers.
- Ledge Pond Town Forest Trail Erosion: Van reported that Robert Stewart has mapped the wetland and that Doug Gamsby has completed the field survey. He expected to have the site plan for our next meeting, then Stewart can complete his work. Cliff noted that the snowmobile club typically submits trail work grant requests during the first half of the year with funding coming in the second half.

- NRI Action Plan:
 - Barbara reported that at the December public meeting presentation at Town Hall, Ginny's and Barbara's presentation was structured around answers to six common questions about the land conservation in Sunapee. The meeting was well attended. Barbara noted that the town manager asked to have another hard copy of the NRI printed. Another copy that can be checked-out at the library is also needed. Allyson reported she has printed a copy with town hall equipment which may be satisfactory, rather than having it out-sourced. Barbara will take a look. **Action by Barbara**
- Conservation Land Data Summary: Pending: As requested in December, Barbara is working on assembling information regarding all Sunapee parcels in one spreadsheet. **Action by Barbara**
- Peer Review Meeting: Barbara reported there were no projects of concern discussed at the December meeting. Van asked about status of Goodhue Boat Company's proposals. Allyson responded that the town awaits their next submission and prior planning board session was advisory only.
- Tyler-Bartlett Lot trees: Garnet Hill Road resident Doug Carey has flagged a number of trees behind his house that could present a blow-down danger and may be on town land. As discussed last spring, our town forester, will arrange to meet Mr. Carey on site and review the flagged trees. If their locations seem reasonable, Mr. Carey will be given the OK to have them taken down. He plans on using a crane. Allyson will put Matthias Nevins in touch with Mr. Carey. **Action by Allyson and Matthias Nevins**
- Dewey Beach Parking Lot: Pending: Concept design by Geoff Lizotte of LSPA for the beach parking lot to reduce run-off. **Action by Geoff Lizotte**
- Con Com Alternate Vacancy: By the end of our meeting, Wendy Nolin decided she would like to fill the alternate seat. **Motion** by Barbara to nominate Wendy Nolin to the Conservation Commission alternate member spot, 2nd by Cliff. Vote unanimous in favor. Allyson noted that Wendy's appointment will come before the selectmen later in January. **Action by Allyson**
- NH DOT letter: Barbara reported that a letter from the Con Com was sent to DOT regarding information about sensitive natural resources in the work area off Route 11 as discussed at last month's meeting.
- Base-line Data for Webb Home Forest Conservation Land: Tim Fleury took over as chairman for this portion of the meeting. No existing base-line information has been found at town hall, in Van Webb's possession, or at Ausbon-Sargent. A base-line document that describes the conservation parcel was the responsibility of the Sunapee Con Com to prepare in 2000 when the conservation deed was finalized. Prior to 2000, this parcel was under a Deed of Dedication, an early version of later conservation deeds. Barbara provided members with a copy of the 2000 Conservation Easement Deed. A 2002 Ausbon-Sargent monitoring inspection report, the first prepared by the back-up easement holder was found and includes many photos. This report will be helpful in establishing a current standards base-line document that is representative of the land as it was around 2000. Tim reported that Ausbon-Sargent is not yet ready to take up this matter and will be in touch with us regarding the base-line structure and content. The commission may need to devote some funds for this effort. Land owner Van Webb would like to be consulted during this process. To be continued. **Action by Con Com and Ausbon-Sargent.**

- 2023 Town Report Message: Con Com information for the 2023 town report was completed and sent to Allyson.
- Member Terms: **Motion** by Tim to nominate Cliff to another 3-year term, 2nd by Doug. Vote unanimous in favor. Allyson will put the nomination of Cliff Field before the Selectmen later in January. **Action by Allyson**

New Business

- Browns Hill Conservation Land Monitoring: Barbara reported that she and Ginny met with a representative of the Browns Hill Association in December and walked both of their conservation parcels over two days. The Con Com is the primary easement holder. A report for both parcels with comments, map, and photos was completed. These are beautiful properties, one is mainly old farm meadow, the other is forest. No activities which are inconsistent with the conservation deed were found. A copy was sent to the land owner. A copy is in the con com file and was shared with commission members.
- Birch Point Circle Land Monitoring: Barbara reported that she visited this town parcel in the Birch Point Road loop in December, took photos, and wrote up a monitoring report. Copy is in the con com file and was shared with commission members.
- Flint-Webb Lot and Fieldstone Access Lot: Barbara reported that she hiked in these two adjacent town properties following review of the 2018 forest management report. This report noted the existence of a hiking trail and remains of an old sugar house. The 40-acre Flint-Webb lot was acquired by the town in 1971 and was land-locked. In 2010 the town acquired 27-acres at the south end of Fieldstone Road after a foreclosure, which provides access to the Flint-Webb lot and is the south end of the historic 85-acre former Fitts farm. Some boundary markers were found at Flint-Webb, but more of the land needs to be hiked. The southern portion is marsh. A trail exists from the power lines to the upper northeast corner where a hunter's tree stand was found. Part of the trail was hard to follow and should be improved, properly marked, and made into a loop. Boundary markers at the Fieldstone access lot were hard to find. Another field visit is needed when conditions are drier or frozen, then a monitoring report can be completed. Features noted on the 1950s Henry Fitts trail map were found, including old stone walls, the brook cascades, and "Elmers Tune", a woods road/hiking trail in use by Fitts from 1941 to 1998. This area is north of town land, but adjacent to it. Presently most of the lower Fieldstone Road lots are undeveloped and in current use. Acquisition of one or two lots would improve town land access and conserve sensitive natural features.
Motion by Cliff for Barbara to contact the land owner about selling the lower two lots to the town, 2nd by Doug. Vote unanimous in favor. **Action by Barbara**
- Dewey Woods Meadow Lot North: Barbara reported that she has been walking the parcel north of Seven Hearths Road and found a vernal pool and many ancient stone walls. She would like to flag a proposed hiking trail through these woods and utilize a portion of the abandoned Old Georges Mills Road north of Seven Hearth Lane as part of the trail loop. A sketch map was passed out. This loop trail would interface with trails to be developed at Dewey Woods meadow when the restoration work is completed. Members thought it this would be a good idea. Barbara will advise when flagging is set out. **Action by Barbara**

Meeting adjourned 8:35 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 7 P 4M

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chalmers, secretary