

## **Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes October 25, 2024**

1. Meeting convened about 1:10 pm with Mike Taylor, Chair; John Barry; Susan Warner; and Colleen Stansbury attending. Committee Member Kathy Streveler and Ex-officio Secretary Shelley Owens are away and unable to attend.

2. Approval of Minutes for October 11, 2024. Minutes reviewed, corrected, and approved. Susan moved and Colleen seconded. Approved by unanimous consent. Mike will email out the approved minutes.

3. Reports from committee members on assigned tasks and discussion.

a. Map development and descriptions of Gustavus conservation lands (Warner and Barry. John Barry is working on these lands using Alaska Mapper. He demonstrated the map function and pointed out parcels of interest to us. He is still working to understand the locations and status of the various parcels.

We discussed the City-owned triangle between Gustavus Road and Glen's Ditch road. It was transferred to the city as municipal entitlement after incorporation. We assume the council took it as a possible site for development and resale, but nothing has happened to the land since incorporation. Neighbors appear to prefer that it remain undeveloped and natural. We decided to include it on the conservation lands inventory provisionally.

b. TNC contacts and MOU consideration (Warner)

Since Kathy is still out of Gustavus for her work projects, Susan and Kathy are discussing how best to develop the relationship with TNC, primarily with Julia Nave, the SE director. They will establish a relationship with Southeast Program Director Julia Nave.

Issues to work include 1) a Memorandum of Understanding regarding cooperation and shared responsibilities; 2) Possible shared management duties; 3) Conservation easements on tracts 6 and 7 where TNC has fee simple title but there are not other cross protections; 4) trail development on TNC tracts.

c. Southeast Alaska Lands Trust contact and MOU consideration (Warner)

Susan has had initial conversations with Margaret Custer. Primary consideration is how to assure the old golf course meadows tracts on both sides of Dock Road remain undeveloped and available for public enjoyment. Other topics include establishing a position of Land Steward to monitor any lands in Gustavus placed under a SEAL Trush conservation easement or owned by SEAL Trust. That may include lands or easements on private lands held by interested Gustavus property owners that have conservation value.

d. Potential lease of beach meadows tracts (Warner).

Susan has been in contact with Margaret Custer at SEAL Trust to work up a proposal to lease the beach meadows tracts for a couple years for public use using an endowment fund grant plus other public contributions as needed. Margaret is in touch with Ben DeBoer on the possibility.

Motion made: Committee Member Colleen Stansbury moved that the Committee will file an application for an Endowment fund grant by October 31, 2024 in the amount of \$25k to lease the beach meadows tracts from the DeBoer Family for a set period in partnership with SEAL Trust. Second by John Barry. Discussion followed. Motion was approved 4-0. Susan will draft up application for submittal.

e. Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area status review (Taylor)

Mike contacted Carl Koch at ADF&G Habitat Division in Douglas. ([carl.koch@alaska.gov](mailto:carl.koch@alaska.gov); 907-465-4266). He is the new manager for Critical Habitat Areas, working for Roy Churchwell. Mike asked for an update to management issues for the CHA, research and monitoring activities, and how the City Conservation Lands Committee can cooperate with ADF&G to management ends. Carl was very appreciative for the contact and will discuss the questions with Roy and get back to develop the relationship further. He has experience here working on Moose hunt monitoring and looks forward to returning to meet with committee members and visit the CHA together.

f. Other issues

Larry Landry has applied to join the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee when he returns from election work in Arizona. The Council can approve his position on 11/11/24 ahead of the next meeting.

4. Adjustments and updates to assigned tasks (confirmation). Assigned tasks will remain as previously outlined and assigned.
5. Next meeting date and time: November 15, 2024, 1:00 pm City Hall?
6. Adjournment: 3:15 pm