

**Conservation Lands Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes - January 3, 2025**  
**APPROVED**

**Meeting convened** at 1:08 pm with Members Mike Taylor, Chair; John Barry, Tanner Horst, Larry Landry, Colleen Stansbury, Kathy Streveler, Susan Warner, Mike Taylor (Chair) and Others: Stephanie Lawlor (SEALT), Sally McLaughlin (Mayor), Liesl Barker (Clerk), Shelley Owens

**Welcome to new members** Tanner Horst and Larry Landry

**Approval of Minutes**

Susan moved to approve the November 22, 2024 meeting minutes; seconded by Colleen; approved.

**Update on Southeast Alaska Lands Trust and Conservation Lands Lease Project**

Susan provided an update on the \$9,000 matching funds donations; that the Endowment funds will provide for the two lease payments and attorney fees; and that all other expenses will be paid for from the private funds. Stephanie described the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant which opens in March-April and closes in July. The NAWCA grant is intended to fund the second phase for permanent protection of the DeBoer beach meadows tracts after the two-year protection funded in part by the \$21K Endowment Fund grant. An RFP will be available in March. Stephanie plans to meet with the DeBoers next week about the temporary conservation easement. SEALT will start the title process which includes a survey of legal boundaries (in progress). A baseline report will be done when the snow is gone, possibly the end of April. NAWCA is a large grant requiring a lot of information. While the DeBoer property is the mainstay, NAWCA wants multidimensional aspects and gives more points if there is a larger project area with multiple properties. SEALT may seek additional funds to add on more conservation properties. Such additions may strengthen the success for funding conservation easements for the DeBoer tracts. The RFP will be available in March, and there will be a Zoom meeting with a GIS map to discuss valued lands, and Gustavus should host a community meeting in March before the baseline visit to survey community stakeholders about what is important to them. Dan Hysell, the stewardship analyst, will conduct the baseline survey and write the NAWCA grant application. Stephanie confirmed that the Endowment funds and local contributions in phase 1 are expected to qualify toward the required 1:1 nonfederal match for the phase 2 permanent easement, and that donation of other lands through purchase or conservation easements could count for extra points if providing more than a 1:1 match.

Susan commented on the need to move the project from the Committee and the City to SEALT and recommended the Zoom meeting originate at SEALT. There was discussion that the project scoping document raised public concern about the City purchasing or managing the property and that the project is not a City project. . Kathy commented on the similarity to TNC talks 30 years ago, and agreed that the City should not be owner, negotiator, or large funder, but how do we retain partnership? She wants to make sure we are still involved in negotiations, and Susan said the Committee is involved but not active in the negotiations. Stephanie said the DeBoers are the landowners and SEALT will monitor the easement annually, however, community involvement has to be written into the easement as part of the framework. Larry will work on public outreach and a memo to get the word out for better public understanding.

**Map development and descriptions of Gustavus conservation lands**

Kathy noted a possibility of vulnerable DNR land by the dock, asked if it should be brought up to SEALT, and if there is a map of DNR land by the dock. John will continue to work toward producing maps that will be useful to SEALT in negotiations with DeBoers. Mike asked that these maps be of a quality that the City can post on the website. John will make a presentation of his mapping product at the February meeting, with a timeline to have it available for SEALT in April.

**The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Report**

Kathy has begun discussions about an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TNC and the City of Gustavus. The MOU should be a basis for a relationship with TNC and the Forelands as a valuable piece of Gustavus culture, heart and happiness. The community of Gustavus wants to be involved in decisions made about the future of TNC lands, and Mike suggested using the TNC Realty document as an outline for the MOU and any new management plan. Any correspondence with TNC will be provided to the Committee and to the Council.

**Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area status review**

There was nothing new to report on the Dude Creek Critical Habitat.

**Task Assignments**

Susan will present an update on SEALT activities.

Kathy will present the correspondence with TNC.

Larry will work with Colleen and Susan to develop a letter in response to the participants at the December 16th meeting for publication on the City website. They will bring a draft to the February Committee meeting.

**Next meeting date and time: Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm at City Hall**

**Adjournment**

**Minutes prepared by Shelley and Colleen**