

## **GARDINER NRI, VIRTUAL (ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 13, 2020 6 - 7:15 PM**

Participants: *From the DEC:* Ingrid Haeckel, Nate Nardi-Cyrus

*From GOSC:* Jean McGrane and Laura Rose

*From the ECC:* Bill Trifilo, Roberta Clements

*From the Planning Board:* Carol Richman

Minutes taken by: Laura Rose.

### **1. Discussion of tonight's agenda.**

There are 4 new maps to review tonight. Comments have been submitted on the prior maps and changes have been incorporated. Changes will be reviewed, if time permits.

### **2. Discussion of the maps.**

**Soil Erosion Hazard Rating Map:** Ingrid created this map in response to questions that were asked at our last meeting. Taken from the county soil survey data, (originally published in 1979,) it looks at the most susceptible areas. Ingrid asked Carol if there's any other question the Town asks about soil that a map could incorporate information about.

Carol said soil drainage, and/ or soil types maps are used in SEQR review, and she will follow up on this question, and forward Ingrid the existing map(s).

Additional questions asked:

- Is there worse erosion since the 70's when this data was compiled?
- Is this a map that will help further the Town's conservation goals? Are we sure we want to include it?
- The map is representing the susceptibility of areas to erosion if 50 - 75% of the trees were removed. Would the soil still be OK? Map seems to indicate a yes in some areas.

The original purpose of this map's data was to look at what the consequence of logging or clear cutting would be. This information could also apply to developments.

Roberta asked: if a small parcel is changed, vs. a large swath, does the risk factor change? She also said: the map is focusing on a parcel-based approach vs. a holistic land use approach and we should be using a new paradigm (from an ecological perspective and in the shadow of climate change.)

Bill said that storm water run-off would change with large-scale clearing. Any site review should include a close assessment of storm water issues.

**Agricultural Resources Map:** Ingrid wants to include parcels with agricultural tax exemptions. Roberta contacted the Assessor and has been waiting to hear back. We discussed the cross-hatching on the map, and whether or not it's confusing to read.

**Intact Habitat Cores:** Ingrid to add more info about the source of the data in this map.  
- Eliminate "Very High" in map key (as there are no key features present in that class.)

Laura asked: since Hedden's dam broke, and the lake drained, is it possible that this habitat core has changed?

Ingrid described it as a conservative map, focusing on the most intact/ undisturbed areas in the Town. Carol asked if it helps support conservation, or if it might suggest that the areas that aren't highlighted lack significant ecological resources.

We agree that all of Gardiner is very alive and much is worth preserving.

A decision as to whether or not to keep this or any of the maps can be made after the second round of drafts, and more community input, said Ingrid.

### **Cultural Resources Map:**

Ingrid asked for the SBL #s of any parcels that should be added to this one.

Buffer widths along local scenic roads are on this map; they are the reason for the wide pink lines.

Laura asked if the colors can be updated, maybe to something in the amber family. She noted that engagement with a map is partially motivated by beauty.

Jean said the place names are hard to read on the Cultural Resources map.

### **3. Review of Maps Ready for a Second Draft:**

**Wetlands Map:** Bill asked if labels for state and federal wetlands can be added to the Wetlands Map. This would require creating two separate maps, most likely. Ingrid will look into it.

### **Preserved in Gardiner Map:**

Ingrid asked if Jean and Laura can meet with her separately to review this map. Both agreed, day and time to be determined.

### **Additional Maps:**

We ran through some of the changes to maps worked on in prior meetings.

### **4. Next Steps:**

A date for our next meeting during the week of May 4th will be set; Nate to send out a doodle poll to the group.

Ingrid is eager to incorporate more of the Town into reviewing the maps and the rest of the NRI process. The second drafts should be shared, prior to maps being finalized. Carol said the Planning Board could fit this on their May agenda.

Ingrid can share the maps ahead of time, and maybe they can be posted on the Town's website. She suggested a public webinar to share the draft maps with more of the community.