

**Conservation Lands Advisory Committee
Report for December 8, 2025, City Council General Meeting
(drafted for Dec 3, 2025, deadline)**

The City of Gustavus Conservation Lands Advisory Committee was established by Resolution CY24-2 in May 2024. We welcomed Shelley Owens as our 8th member:

John Barry	Tanner Horst
Larry Landry	Shelley Owens (Secretary)
Colleen Stansbury	Kathy Streveler
Mike Taylor (Chair)	Susan Warner

Our charge from Resolution CY 24-2

Mission: Provide recommendations, strategies, and supporting documentation to the City on oversight and stewardship of conservation lands within the City boundaries.

Scope: The committee's efforts shall be limited to undeveloped lands recognized or formally-identified for their conservation values. Developed properties and City lands with industrial or intensive recreational uses are outside the committee's scope.

Activities may include:

- Develop a framework for Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), comment on management plans, joint projects, and title transfers with owners of conservation lands and conservation easements on those lands;
- Help to develop formal deed instruments for full protection of all conservation lands;
- Participate in management planning on the City's behalf;
- Advise private owners in designating protection for the golf course area;
- Advise or facilitate transfer or association of private parcels to larger conservation units.

We last reported to the council on September 8, 2025, when we were celebrating success with Southeast Alaska Land Trust (SEALT) and the DeBoer family establishing a SEALT conservation easement on the DeBoer beach meadows tracts. John Barry was completing mapping and description of all conservation lands in Gustavus and Kathy Streveler, Colleen Stansbury, Tanner Horst, and Larry Landry were exploring opportunities to strengthen the City's relationship with The Nature Conservancy of Alaska.

The Committee next met Nov 5, 2025, due to travel schedules, but individuals continued to work on their assigned tasks between meetings. We are pleased to report progress toward our assigned directives.

Beach Meadows Conservation Easement

Following the successful conclusion of a term conservation easement with the DeBoer family, SEALT prepared and submitted a grant application with the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) to fund the perpetual easement. Additional conservation lands committed by another Gustavus family will contribute toward a non-federal match. A NAWCA funding decision is still expected around the end of 2025

and we await news. There are other grant possibilities if the NWACA grant is not awarded to the Gustavus project.

As SEALT develops management planning for the Beach Meadows with the DeBoer family, the committee will monitor and assist if requested, in accordance with our remit.

Susan continues to track developments on the conservation easement and SEALT grant applications and will report updates to the committee at each meeting. Thanks to Susan for her leadership toward conservation of the beach meadows tracts for the benefit of present and future Gustavus residents!

Conservation Lands Mapping and Descriptions

Using Alaska Mapper, John Barry completed new consolidated maps for the key areas with summary descriptions, deed restrictions, easements and other protective measures for each tract. He has updated the maps with new details in November and John and Mike are preparing materials for a Gustavus Community Center Gallery display of the Conservation Lands scheduled to open January 9, 2026. The display will help Gustavus residents see where the conservation lands are located and learn about each tract.

TNC Gustavus Forelands Preserve

The committee's team of Kathy Streveler, Tanner Horst, Landry Landry and Colleen Stansbury monitor developments with The Nature Conservancy Gustavus Forelands Preserve. TNC has been short staffed in Alaska this year, so they have not been in position to develop any planning with the committee. We expect to pick up discussions with them when they are fully staffed.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Sale in Gustavus

AMHT has announced the intent beginning in 2026 to sell AMHT tracts north of Tong Road between Mountain View Rd and the Salmon River, with some of that land extending to the east side of the Salmon River west of the Pinewoods Subdivision. Our committee discussed the properties, much of which has been selectively logged, and we saw no reason to recommend seeking a conservation status for any of those tracts.

Public Zoom participation in Conservation Lands Advisory Committee meetings.

Per the request of the Council, we now provide a link in our public meeting postings for public participation by zoom. We still prefer to have public join us in the meeting room, though, if possible.

The committee's December 5, 2025 meeting at City Hall falls after the submission date for this report. I'll add any new developments from that meeting orally at the December 8 Council general meeting and will update this report to post with the minutes accordingly.

Mike Taylor

Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Chair