



City of Gustavus Conservation Lands Advisory Committee

Established by: Resolution CY 24-12. A Resolution Establishing a Conservation Lands Advisory Committee.

Mission: It is the mission of the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee to provide recommendations, strategies, and supporting documentation to the City on oversight and stewardship of conservation lands within the City boundaries.

Reference--The City Vision Statement: “We envision a distinctive community that prospers while and by protecting its natural resources...”

Scope: The committee’s efforts shall be limited to natural lands within the City boundaries, recognized or formally-identified for their exceptional conservation values. Developed properties and City lands with industrial or intensive recreational uses such as the gravel pits, DRC, Community Chest, Old Post Office, Salmon River Boat Harbor, Salmon River Park, and private or State of Alaska properties with significant constructed facilities are outside the committee’s scope.

Problem Statement: Many tracts of natural land in Gustavus are valued for low-impact recreation, wildlife habitat, potentially for carbon sequestration and other natural purposes, worthy of protection for present and future generations. Those lands may be in private, City, State, Federal or conservation agency ownership or management but managed for their natural character. Some such lands are currently in protected, conservation status but need to be managed to sustain and assure their character. Other lands lack assured protection and may be worthy of consideration for more formally protected status and sustainable management. The committee is charged with advising the City Council on policies regarding the conservation and sustainable uses of these natural lands.

Resolution 24-12 Directives include:

- Develop a governmental framework that provides structure for Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), commenting on Management Plans, joint projects, and land title transfers with owners of conservation lands and the conservation easements on those lands;
- Help the City develop formal instruments for full protection of all TNC parcels;
- Be the “ear to the ground” on shore management matters for the City and public;
- Participate in management planning on the City’s behalf;
- Seek opportunities for facilitating well-designed, sustainable public use;
- Advise private owners in designing further protection for the golf course area;
- Advise or facilitate transfer or association of private parcels to larger conservation units;
- Report activities, progress, and recommendations to the Gustavus City Council and public as scheduled by the Mayor.