

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of July 8, 2019**

**Present Members:** Catherine Fisher, Dawn Genes, Bill Humm (Chair), Anne Tappan

**Alternate Member:** Deb Sugerman

**Ex Officio:** Scott Bugbee

**Guests:** Chuck Cox, Dorn Cox

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of meeting of June 4, 2019 approved as written.

### **Updates and Announcements:**

**LCC Bank Balance:** The balance of the Commission's account as reported by Treasurer Amanda Gourgue to B. Humm is \$15,273.69 and is comprised of

LCC Funds: \$12,626.53

Dave Allen Fund: \$2,647.16

**Easement Monitoring:** In June, C. Fisher, D. Genes, Antionette Hartgerink, and B. Humm monitored the Hutton Easement.; C. Fisher, A. Hartgerink and B. Humm monitored the Lee Little River and Mills/Little River Park Easement; C. Fisher and B. Humm monitored the James Farm and DeMeritt Hill Farm Easements; On July 3, C. Fisher and D. Sugerman monitored the McLean and Quigley Easements. With the exception of the timber cutting at DeMeritt Hill Farm which has been discussed in the Minutes of April, 2019, nothing of concern was noted on any of the properties. July monitoring visits are planned for Talley (7/10), and Stevens (7/17).

### **Reports:**

**ZBA:** A. Tappan reported that she had sent out minutes of a Special Meeting held on June 12, but found she needed to make an amendment to it. These minutes were approved and she will send a copy to Denise and put one on file.

**Education/Outreach:** C. Fisher reported that she may do an early morning bird watching walk in July, but as July is a time when people are on vacation and the weather often too warm for a walk, she may decide to forgo an event for that month.

### **Conservation Lands Management:**

#### **Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary:**

**Management Plan Update:** A. Tappan reported that, to help the management plan move forward, she has written up the following itinerary:

- 1) She has sent a draft of the management plan to Ted Kendziora. The plan presents a scope of the work that is planned, thus making clear the Commission's continued interest in the project. He will review the plan and get back to her.
- 2) Hold one or more special meeting(s) of the Commission to review the plan and hold site visits to make sure all are informed of any revisions to the plan and to enable members to make suggestions and/or changes.
- 3) US Fish and Wildlife Service contract to do the work.

**Spring Covers:** B. Humm reported that Steve Bullock is making his crew available to do the construction of the covers. The Commission must arrange a day and time for a site visit so as to get a more accurate idea of what needs to be done, after which the work can be scheduled. The Commission will pay for any materials needed. Before the work commences, the field needs to become drier and (perhaps) mowed. B. Humm has contacted SELT; they have been apprised of the open springs and the bad condition of the spring house and have clearly endorsed the proposed improvements. B. Humm will take photographs of all the springs. A. Tappan suggested that perhaps the pile of tires used in the field as erosion control could be removed at

this time. B. Humm suggested the tires had been situated in that location for a reason, and as they're located directly upstream from spring #3, which is the main source of water for the house on the property, they should not be disturbed.

**Old Business:**

**Possible Sites for Ground-mounted Solar Array:** B. Humm reported that the process continues and that no decision has been made as to site selection.

**New Business:**

**Culvert Replacement Near Capt. Smith Emerson Drive:** D. Cox reported that a Permit by Notification has been filed with DES to replace an 8" culvert that has collapsed, blocking access to the abutting field. It connects with a 24" culvert that runs under Route 155. Drainage from 155 goes through a wet swale after leaving the culvert and then flows into a pond which acts as a catch basin before runoff reaches the Oyster River. The old culvert will be pulled out of the drainage ditch and be replaced by an 18" culvert. The culvert will be approximately 16' in length. An area roughly 20' upstream and downstream of the culvert will be disturbed during the installation of the culvert, and, geotextile fabric and crushed gravel will be installed in these areas. DES best management procedures will be followed during installation. The area will be mulched once the culvert is installed. A Wetlands Permit Application for the project required the signature of the Commission. The Commission voted to sign the application.

D. Cox and C. Cox reported on the timeframe for a conservation easement on 36 acres of the former Dugas property. The Natural Heritage Bureau will check the site. A purchase and sales agreement has been signed with SPNHF. Partial funding for the easement has been approved by NRCS.

Approval for funding by DES and NLCS is pending. The property, and the wetlands encompassed by it, have been surveyed.

**Bog Observation Platform Committee Meeting:** As Dave Shay is away, it was decided to postpone scheduling a meeting until his return. It was decided that a site visit to the existing bog platform, followed by a meeting would be helpful. B. Humm suggested contacting Randy Stevens to invite him to attend both the site visit and the subsequent meeting, as his knowledge would be a great asset to the project.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, August 5, 2019

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine Fisher