

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of September 3, 2019**

**Present members:** Catherine Fisher, Dawn Genes, Bill Humm (Chair), Dave Shay, Anne Tappan

**Alternate Member:** Deb Sugerman

**ExOfficio:** Scott Bugbee

**Guests:** Chris Albert, Joanne McGann

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of meeting of August 5, 2019, approved as written

### **Updates and Announcements:**

**LCC Bank Balance:** Treasurer Amanda Gourgue was not present at the meeting, and though she had emailed a report prior to the meeting, neither B. Humm nor C. Fisher had the figures at hand. However, C. Fisher reported that checks from LRAC (\$500.00) and a nature walk donation from the O'Shea family) had been deposited into the LCC account.

**Easement Monitoring:** In August C. Fisher and B. Humm monitored the Kelsey and Fogg properties, with nothing of concern noted on either.

September monitoring visits are planned for Henry (9/4), Cox (9/11), Woodall (9/18) Schulz-Friedlander (9/21) and Brisard (9/25).

**Possible CE Violation Report to SELT:** B. Humm reported that he had communicated with Deborah Goard, Stewardship Director at SELT, regarding the tree house constructed on the easement at the Richard Stevens property. She had several questions regarding the treehouse and regarding the wetland setbacks. She provided dates and times as to when she will be available for a site visit, which B. Humm felt would be advisable.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **ZBA:**

**71 Demeritt Ave:** A. Tappan reported that Caren Rossi has informed Fred Schultz that DES must be consulted before work on a wet soils area of the property can continue. C. Rossi has notified DES.

**118 Calef Highway:** A. Tappan reported that the property, where Lee Custom Cycle is located, is on the market. This is the property that intervenes between the parcels of the proposed Dave Garvey development.

#### **Conservation Lands Management:**

**Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary, Management Plan Update:** A. Tappan reported that she will soon have the minutes of the special meeting held on August 8. She will be sending out the ninth version of the management plan and will draft a cover letter to SELT. Once SELT has approved the plan Ted Kendziora will work up a contract to USFWS, which will then go to the Select Board.

**Ford Spring Covers Update:** Steve Bullek provided B. Humm with a drawing of the proposed cover which included a door that can be removed so that it will be possible to look at the spring. B. Humm sent him an email asking when the work might be done, but has not yet received a reply. If no reply has been received by the time the Lee Fair is over, B. Humm will check in with him again.

**Education/Outreach:** Beyond planning for the Lee Fair and leading a nature walk on fair day, no education/outreach activities are planned for September.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**McGann Driveway Encroachment, 13 Chestnut Way:** Chris Albert, Senior Project Manager with Jones & Beach Engineers, Inc., reported that, on behalf of the property owner, Sean McGann, an application requesting a wetlands setback Special Exception has been submitted to the ZBA. The application proposes to rip out 1122 sq. ft. of pavement and install pervious pavement. The existing rock buffer will remain in place and highbush blueberries planted between the rock buffer and the

wetland - and that would then be left natural. A. Tappan noted that, in the Approved Subdivision Plan, the driveway was located so as to be in compliance with wetland setbacks.

Members of the Commission discussed the proposed application, with the resulting consensus being that there were serious concerns with both damage to the wetland's water quality and with setting a precedent that could, down the road, pose difficulties for the Town. The Commission therefore will not recommend approval by the ZBA.

**Clay Lane Proposed Timber Cut and Gravel Extraction:** B. Humm reported that this won't happen until the Town appropriates funds to allow detailed planning. As the proposal now stands, only a small section of the parcel will be impacted. A meeting/site visit with neighbors will take place, and will hopefully allay their concerns.

**Lee Fair:** C. Fisher reported that she had contacted Dick Babcock and he has kindly agreed to loan his tent and two tables. He will meet with members of the Commission to help set them up at 9:00. For use in the pollinator display, she asked for contributions from members with access to native or non-native flowering plants, and that the stems be cut long. Nature walk time has been changed from 11:00 to 11:30. Members will be available at various times so that the booth will have CC members present throughout the day of the fair. Take down time will likely be sometime between 4:00 and 4:30.

**Bog Platform Update:** B. Humm reported that, because of concerns about micro plastics entering wetlands, DES only allows wooden planking on boardwalks and platforms; hence cedar planking will be used in the platform's construction. D. Shay reported that the Permit by Notification is in process. The Commission approved refunding D. Shay for the amount of \$25.00 spent on the application fee.

**Proposed Letter to Landowners Regarding Their Conservation Easements:** B. Humm presented a draft of the proposed letter and it was approved. The envelopes will be printed out by Caren Rossi and the letter will be sent to property owners once this year's monitoring has been completed.

**Posting of Trails and Photos of Town-Owned Lands on Trail Finder:** While the trails are now posted on Trail Finder, there are as yet no photos. S. Bugbee asked if it was possible to get a print out of maps at the website. A printer-friendly option is provided on Trail Finder.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Request to Photograph American Chestnuts in Town Forest:** Stewart Clements has requested permission to photograph the chestnuts in the Town Forest. B. Humm reported that he and C. Fisher had checked out the large, fruiting chestnut in the Town Forest and discovered that, though its lower branches are alive and seem to still be bearing chestnuts, its crown is dead. C. Fisher reported that when Charlie Moreno presented his Town Forest Management Plan in 2010, he'd mentioned at the time that the tree was showing signs of chestnut blight. She reported that she and B. Humm had noted an array of daughters in the vicinity of the tree. The Commission will make no decision regarding photographing the tree until Mr. Clements is able to attend a meeting.

**Budget Request for FY 21:** The Commission has decided to request zero monies for FY 21.

**Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Flag Hill:** The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will take place on Monday, December 9 from 6:00-9:00 pm. Volunteers can bring a guest. Those planning to attend should RSVP to Denise Duval.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 1, 2019

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