

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of October 1, 2019**

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

**Alternate Member:** Deb Sugerman

**Ex Officio:** Scott Bugbee

**Guests:** Joh Ahern, Chris Albert, Sherrie Trefry

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of meeting of September 3, 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 \$15,926.28 and is comprised of

LCC Funds: \$13,270.01

Dave Allen Fund: \$2,656.27

**Easement Monitoring:** In September, C. Fisher and B. Humm monitored the Henry Easement (9/4) and the Cox Easement (9/11); C. Fisher D. Genes and B. Humm monitored the Woodall Easement (9/18); B. Humm and D. Sugerman monitored the Schulz-Friedlander Easement ((9/21); and C. Fisher, D. Genes, and B. Humm monitored the Brisard Easement (9/25). Nothing of concern was noted on any of these easements.

October monitoring visits are planned for Daley (10/2), Ellis Oyster River (10/9), Chisholm (10/16), Powder Major Forest (10/23) and Verrette (10/30).

**Possible CE Violation Report to SELT:** B. Humm reported that in a telephone conversation with Deborah Goard (Stewardship Director, SELT), she stated that the treehouse on the Richard Stevens property is considered a structure. B. Humm has forwarded information about the possible CE violation to the Town Counsel for legal interpretation. B. Humm also reported that there is a possibility of the treehouse being moved to another location where it will not be in violation of the easement.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **ZBA:**

**13 Chestnut Way:** A. Tappan reported that the ZBA voted to deny the wetlands setback Special Exception submitted by Chris Albert (Jones & Beach Engineers, Inc.) on behalf of Sean McGann.

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

**Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary, Management Plan Update:** A. Tappan reported that the most recent version of the plan was sent to SELT on Sept. 10. A possible site visit on Oct. 8, with Deborah Goard, Ted Kendziora (USFWS), and possibly Phil Brown (Audubon), is planned.

**Ford Spring Covers Update:** B. Humm reported that Steve Bullek has indicated that he intends to get these done this fall. A. Tappan reported that she showed S. Bullek the suggested route to the covers and also spoke to him about treating invasive plants.

**Lee Five Corners Reserve, Access and Invasive Plants Control:** B. Humm reported that he, A. Tappan, and T. Kendziora visited the property late in September to determine that it is in compliance with the contract between the Town and USFWS. The Town is responsible for treating invasive plants, but dense plant growth at the entrance must be cleared in order for a truck to be able to enter. Consequently, A. Tappan went to the property with S. Bullek and Peter Hoyt, and they are agreeable to doing the work to clear the gate. T. Kendziora has funds for invasives work, and S. Bullek will contact Doug Cygan (NH Dept. Agr.) about getting this work done. To maintain early successional habitat on the site, T. Kendziora will cut a cluster of pines in November. No mowing is needed this year.

**Little River Park, Invasive Plants Control:** A. Tappan reported that she visited the park with S. Bullek and P. Hoyt. There has been considerable plant growth in the area on either side of the path traversing the area that had been managed for woodcock display habitat several years ago. Trees need to be cut and several invasive plant species, particularly multiflora rose, need to be treated. Because this is a public area, the proposed tree-cutting, mowing and invasives treatment needs to be presented to the BOS.

**Little River Park, Grant Opportunity:** A. Tappan and C. Fisher reported on conversations they'd had with Suzanne Petersen about applying for a grant from the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) to fund the construction of a bridge on a branch of the park's River Trail where, currently, people have improvised a crossing over a stream. All three took part in a site visit on Sept. 19, where the possibilities of constructing a bridge, kiosk and bench were discussed. LRAC can fully fund expenses up to \$6000, and grants are accepted on an on-going basis. The funds must be spent by August, 2020. S. Petersen emailed grant descriptions, an application form, and examples of projects funded by LRAC. D. Sugerman volunteered to head this project. C. Fisher noted that during the Sept. 19 site visit, it was discovered that an OHRV had been driven through the river and onto the trail, causing damage to the stream bed.

**Posting "No Hunting" Signs in Town Forest:** B. Humm reported that he'd been contacted by Caren Rossi about reports of hunters in the Town Forest as well as on abutting properties. He has purchased signs and will post them in areas where hunters are accessing the Forest.

#### **Education Outreach:**

**Tick Bite Prevention Signs:** C. Fisher reported that she had received, from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, five sturdy signs promoting tick bite prevention to post at Town-owned lands trailheads. She will post one on the Town Forest kiosk.

**Poetry Nature Walk:** C. Fisher reported that, on October 13, she will lead a nature walk accompanied by poets Marie Harris and Mimi White. This will be a leisurely walk in the Town Forest, with occasional stops for poetry reading. Members of the public will be invited to bring a favorite nature poem (their own or written by someone else) to share. She will advertise the walk in the E-Crier and the Commission's Facebook page. S. Bugbee suggested that an additional notice be posted in NeighborLEE.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Lee Fair:** The consensus was that the turnout was very good, and many people stopped to learn about pollinators, native plants, conserved lands. C. Fisher's caterpillar display and the tick snap bracelets were both quite popular.

**Town Forest Conservation Easement:** B. Humm reported that he had received a document from SPNHF re: adding the parcel encompassing the vernal pool near Mast Way School, which he has forwarded to the Town Counsel.

**Bog Platform Update:** Thanks to the hard work of Dave Shay, Linda Reinhold has submitted the Permit by Notification (PBN) to DES. A check in the amount of \$25.00 was issued to D. Shay, reimbursing him for the PBN fee. B. Humm was reimbursed in the amount of \$200.00 for the PBN application fee.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Eversource Pole Replacements:** Sherrie Trefry, VBH representative, described a project in an area off Snell Rd., in which two wood utility poles will be replaced by steel poles. As the work area is situated in and near wet soils, a Special Exception Request has been accepted by Caren Rossi, and this will go before the ZBA on October 16. Project work will follow best management practices as outlined in the NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Commission voted not to oppose granting the Special Exception.

**54 Sherburne Rd., Variances Requested:** Property owner, John Ahern, requested a wet soils variance in order to construct a septic system. The septic system will be within 50' of a wet soils area. J.

Ahern also requested a wet soils variance to allow for the construction of an addition and deck no closer than within 56' of a wet soils area. The wet soils area is a small depression with no open water. A. Tappan will visit the site. The Commission voted not to oppose granting the variances, pending any unanticipated problem discovered during the site visit. This will go before the ZBA on October 16.

**13 Chestnut Way:** Chris Albert, Senior Project Manager with Jones and Beach Engineers, Inc., reported that the property owner, Sean McGann, will appeal the ZBA's decision not to allow a wetlands setback Special Exception. He reported that the property owner is trying to sell the property and needs the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) in order to do so. Members of the Commission expressed concern about the long-term regular maintenance needed to keep a porous or pervious surface driveway functional in order to provide protection of the wetland. Commission members again noted that a driveway location that meets all setbacks exists and that that remains an option which would have no wetland impacts.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, October 31, 2019

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