

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting October 31, 2019

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

Alternate Member: Deb Sugerman

Guests: John Hutton, Don Quigley

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of meeting of October 1, 2019, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

Easement Monitoring: In October, C. Fisher and B. Humm monitored the Daley Easement (10/2); Ellis Oyster River (10/9); Chisholm Easement (10/16); and the Verrette Easement (10/30). B. Humm and D. Sugerman monitored Powder Major Forest (10/23). Nothing of concern was noted on any of these easements.

November monitoring visits, with dates to be announced, are planned for easements on Lee/Hartgerink and Old Mill Reserve. Caren Rossi will monitor the easement at Echo Ridge.

Possible CE Violation: B. Humm reported that he'd received input from the Town Attorney regarding the structure on the property in question.

Letter to CE Landowners: B. Humm reported that the letters have been put in envelopes and are ready to send out.

REPORTS:

ZBA:

A. Tappan reported that at the Board's October 16 meeting, Eversource's Request for Special Exception and John Ahern's Wet Soils Variance request had both been approved.

A. Tappan reported that a rehearing on the request for a Special Exception Application is scheduled for November 19. Town Attorney has asked the Commission to review the material from Mr. McGann's attorney. The Commission discussed the material and the content of a letter to go the ZBA hearing.

Conservation Lands Management:

Maude Jones Memorial Forest: After reviewing the current "American Tree Farm, Tree Farm Inspection Record", D. Quigley, a tree farm inspector for NH, recommended recertification. He noted that the management plan is due to be updated and also recommended reflagging the boundaries.

Town Forest: Save for some paperwork, the 7.49 acre addition to the conservation easement has been finalized.

Lee Five Corners Reserve, Access and Invasive Plants Control: A. Tappan reported that the DPW has cleared the gate and woods road. USFWS contact Ted Kendziora plans to cut pines sometime in November or December; A. Tappan will check with the Town Administrator regarding insurance coverage. Arrangements have been made to treat some of the invasive plants in the spring.

Little River Park:

Woodcock habitat/invasive treatment: A. Tappan reported DPW will be treating invasives. To facilitate tree removal in order to maintain woodcock display habitat, a forestry head attachment, to be used on Town equipment, will be rented for two days in early December at a cost of approximately \$300.00/day. The Commission authorized rental fees up to \$800.00.

Bridge grant: D. Sugerman reported that the bridge and kiosk grant application had been submitted to LRAC and that the initial response has been positive. B. Humm suggested that Larry Kindberg be informed of plans for the bridge and kiosk.

Parking lot expansion: A. Tappan, the Commission's representative to the Parking Lot Expansion (PLE) Committee, reported that the Select Board wants a new access to the grounds. She described

changes in booth location at future fairs and plans to improve the parking lot. This may affect the Little River Trailhead and placement of the proposed kiosk.

Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary:

Mowing: A. Tappan reported that Chuck Cox plans to mow in mid-November. A. Tappan will locate and flag the corner pin in a large swath of blackberry plants. Historically, C. Cox's compensation for mowing has been the use of the shed for storing equipment; but referring to the Commission's minutes in 2011 which indicate that C. Cox received additional compensation in the amount of \$200.00 annually, A. Tappan suggested that C. Cox should be paid for mowing. B. Humm suggested that A. Tappan speak with C. Cox regarding monetary compensation in addition to the use of the shed.

Spring Covers: A. Tappan reported that one of the lumber companies has locust available; a cost estimate will be written up.

Waterline Concerns: Regarding the water line running through the field from the spring to the house, members of the Commission discussed possible actions and concerns about liability in perpetuity to the Town. A. Tappan was directed to discuss this with the Town Administrator.

Management Plan: A. Tappan reported that on October 8, she and Deb Goard (Stewardship Director, SELT), T. Kendziora, and B. Humm met to discuss the management plan. SELT considers much of the plan to not be in compliance with the terms of the easement. A. Tappan will rewrite the plan. USFWS funding is available for next winter.

Education/Outreach: C. Fisher reported that she had written a spider article for the Lee E-Crier.

Depending upon how busy things are, she may plan a December nature walk focused on forest floor evergreens.

NEW BUSINESS:

Coppal House Farm:

Ditch Clean Out: J. Hutton described a ditch clean-out project for which he needs a DES Permit by Notification. He will be working with NRCS on this project, which won't be done until August or September, 2020. He will be clearing out what has accumulated in a broad, shallow ditch. The resulting grassed waterway will permit a slow flow of water rather than a current.

Addition to Existing Building: An addition to an existing building is planned for this winter. The addition, and possibly the existing building are on Town land under conservation easement. A motion was made and passed to accept the 12 x 74 addition and for the removal of two hoop houses.

Fill Commission Vacancy: Deb Sugerman has agreed to become a full member of the Commission, filling the vacancy created by Tim Moody's resignation.

Commission Contact Person: C. Fisher will be the contact person while B. Humm is away (11/2-11/18).

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Submitted by _____
Catherine Fisher