

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of May 4, 2021**

Chair Dawn Genes opened the meeting by reading the following statement:

*"As Chair of the Conservation Commission, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is meeting electronically utilizing the Zoom platform. We previously gave notice to the public of how to access this meeting using Zoom and instructions are provided on the Town of Lee's website at: [www.leenh.org](http://www.leenh.org). If anybody has a problem with access, please call 603-234-8194. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law."*

### **Present and with no one else present in their respective rooms:**

**Members:** Catherine Fisher (Secretary), Dawn Genes (Chair), Bill Humm, Dave Shay, Deb Sugerman, Anne Tappan

**Alternate Member:** Mimi Winder

**Select Board Representative:** Scott Bugbee

**Technical Assistance:** Caren Rossi, Planning, Zoning, and Health Administrator

**Guest:** Matt D. Scaccia, Recreation & Community Relations Manager, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF)

**Approval of Minutes of April 6, 2021:** D. Shay moved to accept the minutes as written, and B. Humm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved by Lee Conservation Commission (LCC) members.

**Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of April 26, 2021:** A. Tappan requested that the number of trees cited in the project be changed to 68, and that the minutes be approved with the incorporation of this change. D. Shay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved by LCC members.

### **REPORTS:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Amanda Gourgue emailed the following report:

The Commission's account balance is \$9,328.68 and is comprised of:

Dave Allen Account Balance: \$2,686.69

LCC Account Balance: \$6,641.99

D. Genes reported that she had been informed by Laura Gund that the Conservation Camp invoice, in the amount of \$540.00, was ready to be paid. D. Genes will forward the information to A. Gourgue.

**Easement Monitoring:** Properties monitored in April: Aldag (4/14); Barth and Crosbie (4/21); and Sanborn (5/1). Nothing of concern was noted on any of these properties. A return visit to Riverside Farm Drive found no encroachment. Monitoring visits are scheduled for Jenkins/Grumbling (5/5); Brady (5/12); Lee Little River and Mills Little River (5/19); Kelsey (5/26); and Hutton (6/2).

**Education/Outreach:** A. Gourgue emailed the following report on the LCC's Facebook page in the period from April 4th - May 1st:

People Reached 7,071 (401% increase from last month)

Post Engagements 1,152 (198% increase from last month)

Page Likes 8 (60% increase from last month)

**Garlic Mustard Pull:** A. Tappan and M. Winder will lead a garlic mustard removal event at Little River Park on Thursday, May 6.

### **Board Reports:**

**Planning Board:** A. Tappan reported that, at the meeting of April 14, F. Schultz requested that the Demeritt Ave. parking project be removed from the agenda, to be continued to May 12. The parcel has been put on the market.

**Select Board (BOS):** A. Tappan reported that at the May 3 BOS meeting she and researchers from UNH presented the proposal to conduct an emerald ash borer (EAB) study on 68 trees in the Town Forest. She reported that the BOS expressed strong support for the project. SPNHF has been notified and has no issues with the project.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Conservation Projects Underway:**

**Lee Trails Committee (LTC):** D. Sugerman reported that she, C. Fisher, and M. Winder as well as 10 LTC members had attended a Boardwalk/Bridge meeting with Phil Auger of Southeast Land Trust. Mr. Auger led the group on a tour of the bridges and boardwalks constructed in the Piscassic Greenway. LTC members asked many excellent questions and were excited to use the knowledge gained to construct new bridges/boardwalks on Lee's public trail systems.

D. Sugerman reported that, on May 5, she will attend a Recreational Trails Bureau workshop on applying for a grant to finance kiosks for Maud Jones Memorial Forest (2); Little River Park (1); and the Town Forest (3). The six proposed small kiosks (3'x2'), such as those designed by Timber Homes in Vermont, would cost approximately \$9000.00.

D. Sugerman reported on the work done and work plans made by each of the groups associated with the trail systems at Maud Jones Memorial Forest (MJMF), Town Forest (TF), and Little River Park (LRP).

#### **MJMF:**

**Work done:** Ten LTC members held a work session to test procedures. Trail blazes were painted (main trail: yellow; esker trail: white).

**Work planned:** Updates on kiosk, signs (end of property and tree ID's); educational information about the esker and kettle hole; dog waste station; trail naming by Mast Way students.

#### **LRP:**

**Work done:** On May 1, nine LTC members and nine community volunteers removed old trail blazes and painted new blazes (Little River Trail: yellow; Ridge Trail: orange; Wood Trail: white). Work on erosion control was done in several places along the Ridge Trail. The Wood Trail was raked to make it more visible. As this trail does not appear to be one often used by walkers, some thought is being given to activities, such as a Fairy House Day, to promote its usage.

**Work planned:** D. Sugerman will follow up on the work done by double blazing, and putting in more erosion control signs. "End of Property" signs are planned. Finish LRAC grant (bridges; educational markers).

#### **TF:**

**Work Planned:** A work day is planned for early June. Old paint blazes will be removed and plastic blazes will be installed. Community walks are planned to introduce the new trails. Bridge repairs are planned. In order to remove a dangerous switchback, a trail reroute is planned. Many community members, led by LTC members, will be invited to take part in work on the trails.

**Bog Platform:** Tommy Docks received the order for the platform on April 24; there is a three-week turnaround time. D. Genes moved to authorize payment to Tommy Docks in the amount of \$3369.70. D. Shay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved by LCC members. D. Genes moved to approve payment in the amount of \$522.00 for invoice for the platform's galvanized steel pipes. C. Fisher seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved by LCC members. Randy Stevens is volunteering his services for the project and will have 7-9 volunteers assisting him.

Following her LTC report, D. Sugerman moved to authorize:

1) Up to \$100.00 to purchase two "End of Conservation Land" signs to be posed at MJMF and LRP. Signs will read: *End of Lee Conservation Land - Please respect all signs and boundaries beyond* and will have on them the Town Seal and LCC information. In the interests of uniformity, D. Genes

asked S. Bugbee if the Town has similar signs on other properties. S. Bugbee suggested that D. Sugerman contact C. Rossi about sign vendors.

2) Up to \$200.00 for bridge repair in the TF (5 pressure treated 2x8 boards \$75.00; 3 boxes roofing nails, \$12.00; 4 pressure treated 4x4 boards, \$92.00; 1 box 4" brass screws, \$16.00). C. Fisher seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved by LCC members.

3) Up to \$300.00 to be used to reblaze TF trails (350 blank blazes @\$0.63 each and 20 directional blazes, @ \$0.86 each for a total of \$253.00; 3 boxes roofing nails (\$4.00/box), \$12.00). D. Shay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved by LCC members.

**Town Forest Complex Maps:** D. Genes discussed having a map of the Town Forest made that combined all the parcels that comprise the TF into one map. After filling a form to request a map be made by Strafford Regional Planning Commission, she was told that the fee would be \$400.00. D. Genes asked whether it would be better to have a surveyor do the work. B. Humm said that the LCC had discussed having Adam Fogg (Atlantic Survey Co.) do such a map; at the time the price quoted was \$500.00. C. Rossi stated that she would find out if the quote is still valid, and if not, request a new quote. B. Humm requested that the new map also include the seven acre parcel that includes the vernal pool.

**Library Expansion and Conservation Considerations:** S. Bugbee reported that one member of the BOS requested that, in order to address concerns and move the proposal forward, all concerned parties, including the LCC, hold a joint meeting. A meeting of the BOS, LCC, Library Trustees, Recreation Commission and Caren Rossi will convene at 5:30 p.m. on May 19. Citing the three part process of "avoidance, minimization, and mitigation" that should inform any project that encroaches into a wetlands area, D. Genes, encouraged members to spend time considering the concerns, recommendations and questions that they will bring to the May 19 meeting, stressing that a ZBA variance should not be granted until all other options have been eliminated.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**SPNHF Request for Wet Soils Special Exception at Madbury Town Forest:** M. Scaccia discussed plans by SPNHF to reconstruct an 8'x20' bridge in a part of the Madbury Town Forest that, though owned by the Town of Madbury, is located in Town of Lee. The bridge is part of a trail system, managed by SPNHF, that intersects between Powder Major's Forrest and Madbury Town Forest. The project falls within the wet soils conservation zone; DES will receive a Trails Notification. The current bridge is beginning to create an erosion issue. Work will be done sometime between July and September, when the existing bridge will be removed and the new, longer and more elevated bridge will be constructed over the same footprint. Best management practices will be observed. The Madbury BOS have reviewed and approved the project, which will be funded by a grant through the Recreational Trails Bureau. SPNHF is looking for support from the Lee Zoning Board and the LCC. D. Shay moved to approve the special exception to replace an existing bridge in a wet soils zone. C. Fisher seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved by LCC members. A. Tappan will write a letter outlining this motion and present it to the ZBA with a copy provided the M. Scaccia.

**Corrections, Suggestions, Amendments to Strafford Regional Planning Commission's (SRPC) Online Recreational Sites:** D. Genes encouraged members to review the SRPC's Lee listings for any errors, omissions, or additions.

**Next Meeting: Monday, June 7, 2021**

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