

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of June 7, 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. 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), A. Gourgue (Treasurer), 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

Guests: Lee Library Trustees: Peg Dolan, Annie Gasowski, Katrinka Pellicchia, Deb Schanda, Emily Woodall

Library Director: Ruth Eifert

SMP Architects: Anthony Mento, Jason LaCombe

Approval of Minutes of May 4, 2021: D. Sugerman moved to accept the minutes as written, and A. Tappan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved by Lee Conservation Commission (LCC) members.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: A. Gourgue reported that, because Conservation Camp was cancelled, there were no transactions in May. The LCC's account balance remains at \$9,328.68 and is comprised of:

Dave Allen Account Balance: \$2,686.69

LCC Account Balance: \$6,641.99

Easement Monitoring: Properties monitored in May: Grumblin and Jenkins (5/5), Brady (5/12), Lee Little River and Mills Little River (5/19), Kelsey (5/26), and Hutton (6/2). Nothing of concern was noted on any of these properties. Monitoring visits are scheduled for: Quigley and McLean (6/9), Tally (6/16), Stevens (6/23), Fogg (6/30).

B. Humm reported that, as he will be away, he will be unable to monitor during the month of July.

Education/Outreach:

LCC Facebook Page: A. Gourgue reported the following figures (from May 9-June 4):

People reached 2,803 (down 60%)

Post Engagements 404 (down 65%)

Page Likes 2 (down 80%)

Garlic Mustard Pull: A. Tappan reported that, during the May 6 event (a "Day of Caring" project requested by Extreme Networks), seven participants (five volunteers from Extreme Networks, plus A. Tappan and M. Winder) picked 23 bags of garlic mustard at Little River Park (LRP). A. Tappan and M. Winder participated and took the filled bags to a sunny Highway Dept. location. After the bags have baked in the sun, the Highway Dept. will dispose of them. A. Tappan reported that she saw no evidence of garlic mustard in other areas of LRP.

Autumn Geology Walk: C. Fisher reported that she has spoken with two UNH geologists who have agreed to lead a walk on the geology of one of the trails in Lee (to be determined later). The walk

will likely take place mid-autumn. She will do a preliminary walk with them sometime in June or July.

Board Reports:

Planning Board: A. Tappan reported that, at the May 12 hearing, the Schultz application (Demeritt Ave. parking project) was withdrawn. The property has been sold.

Zoning Board (ZBA): A. Tappan reported that the special exception requests from Eversource and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest's (SPNHF) will go before the Board on June 10. She has written the letter outlining the LCC's recommendations regarding SPNHF's special exception request to repair an existing trail bridge in the part of the Madbury Town Forest which is located in Lee; the letter will be provided to C. Rossi, who will distribute it to the ZBA, and Matt Scaccia (SPNHF Community Relations Mgr.)

Select Board (BOS): S. Bugbee reported that the BOS unanimously approved a motion made by a BOS member to have the Town abide by its own regulations.

OLD BUSINESS:

Library Expansion and Conservation Considerations: At their request, Lee Library Trustees attended the meeting to discuss the proposed library addition and presented pros and cons of keeping the addition as currently proposed, which is 57 feet from wet soils where 75 feet is required. A lengthy discussion about the proposed addition and location followed. A. Mento (discussed the impact of a new roof structure connecting at a different location on the existing building. He stated that the information SMP had received was that the setback was 50 feet. C. Rossi explained the process when applying for a special exception or variance to zoning regulations. D. Genes explained that the CC makes recommendations to Boards, they are not the deciding authority. A. Tappan noted that considerable area around the building footprint would be disturbed during construction and asked SMP for a general idea of the area of disturbance. SMP stated that a construction engineer would be the one to answer that question once the building design is finalized, but suggested it would be at least 8 feet beyond the building footprint on the bog side. Trustees stated they would implement as many CC measures as possible. C. Fisher briefly discussed the unique features of the bog, describing it as an Ice Age relic and singular wetland habitat. A. Tappan stated that the LCC would want to have a site visit. S. Bugbee asked if, in order to protect the bog, the Town could invest funds in order to explore other options. A. Tappan suggested that making the addition to the east and outside of the setback would allow space for significantly increased floor area, fully or mostly out of the buffer, possibly at less expense.

Conservation Projects Underway:

Lee Trails Committee (LTC): Deb Sugerman reported on the following developments and activities:

BOS: At the May 17, 2021 meeting, the Board approved the grant to the Recreational Trails Program and the site location of six kiosks (one at Little River Park (LRP), two at Maud Jones Memorial Forest (MJMF), and three at the Town Forest (TF)). The building of a new trail at MJMF was also approved.

Recreation Trails Program Grant: D. Sugerman reported that she is nearly finished with the application process. She is waiting to hear from the Natural Heritage Bureau on sensitive plants in the area near the library where one of the kiosks will be located.

Planning Board and ZBA: The State did not approve the driveway permit as located (the existing driveway which was permitted as a temporary access for logging), but approved a new location southwest of the temporary drive. S. Bullock will meet with LTC to plan.

MJMF: Work on the new trail won't begin until the leaves have dropped - late autumn

TF:

Bog Platform: Randy Stevens and the Dept. of Public Works will be putting in the platform sometime in the next two weeks. LTC will assist. Town Administrator, Julie Glover, received an in-

voice from Tommy Docks. A. Gourgue asked that the invoice be forwarded to her so she can submit it to the Town.

Trail Work Day, June 19, 10:00-1:00: Old trail blazes will be removed and new ones painted. D. Sugerman has tried, unsuccessfully, to contact the local Boy Scout troop to see if they have interest in assisting.

LRP River Trail Project: Marc Jacobs is still working with DES on permitting, but will need \$2400.00 more to complete a full wetlands assessment and get the project to the finish line. D. Sugerman moved to approve making \$3000.00 of LCC funds available for the permitting process. C. Fisher seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved by LCC members.

Town Forest Complex Maps: C. Rossi reported that she has emailed Adam Fogg (Atlantic Survey Co.) and he is aware of what the LCC is looking for. In the email, she asked if the \$1000 quote he'd given some time ago is still valid. A. Tappan reported that at the LCC's May meeting, S. Bugbee had suggested that perhaps John Tappan could produce the type of single, composite map that the LCC is looking to have made; J. Tappan would be able to do so, she reported, however he stressed that if the LCC has him create such a map it would be useful only as a tool, not as a legal conveyance. B. Humm stated that he feels strongly that, as the LCC would use such a map as a substitute for individual surveys, a map that is a legal conveyance would be required. D. Genes suggested that some members of the LCC meet with J. Tappan to discuss whether a map made by him would be of use to the LCC.

LRAC/Wadleigh Falls Canoe Launch Improvements: D. Genes reported that she had heard from Suzanne Petersen regarding the erosion that has occurred due to people launching their boats beside the granite launch rather than using the launch itself. Members of LRAC made a site visit on June 3, 2021 and noted that the granite launch has some undercutting and will need to be repaired.. D. Genes asked that S. Petersen keep the LCC informed of developments.

New Business:

Return to In-person Meetings: Future meetings will be held at the New Town Offices at the Daly Building.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Submitted by _____
Catherine Fisher