

**Lee Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting of March 10, 2022**

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

Alternate Members: Laurel Cox, Mark Nelson, Mimi Winder

Car Wash Proposal on Route 4: The Conservation Commission (CC) will meet with surveyors representing the car wash developer on March 29; D. Genes reported that this group will be using the services of soils and wetlands scientist, Marc Jacobs. D. Genes reported that she had been in touch with the Department of Environmental Services (DES) for information pertaining to car washes and their effect on ground water. A. Tappan reported that she had looked at the property card and the parcel is 3.7 acres with two units: 1.95 acres of which 52% is upland, old tanks are located in this area; 1.75 acres of which 47% are wetland. The property is within the MBTE plume. D. Genes reported that she had invited Eric Fiengenbaum, Chair of the Oyster River Advisory Committee, to attend the meeting on March 29. It was suggested this proposal might also be of interest to the Durham Conservation Commission and Durham Public Works Dept.

Conserving Properties Through Grants: D. Genes reported that most funding opportunities are for properties associated with infrastructure improvements, drinking water protection, and flood protection.

L. Cox suggested that U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge might be a source of funding for suitable shrubland property.

Maps: As an aid to assessing parcels that merit protection, updated maps are needed.

Strafford Regional Planning (SRP); D. Genes will get a quote for an updated map.

FEMA floodplain map

Zoning Overlay map - shows aquifer conservation district

Co-occurrence map

Working List of Areas that Merit Protection: For instances when conservation funding becomes available, D. Genes spoke about the need to have a working list of areas in Lee that merit protection - either because they are degrading, or are of conservation value, or contain wildlife or habitat that should be protected.

Criteria to be considered:

Riparian Areas

Buffer Protection

Aquifer Protection

Habitat Protection

Proximity to other conserved lands

Storm water management

Possible Sources of Information/Collaboration

NH Fish and Game: B. Humm suggested this as a source of information for high-priority habitat

Durham and Newmarket Conservation Commissions: Partnering and working across town lines to protect parcels that straddle multiple communities.

Check Zoning Regulations: as they pertain to riparian edges such as the Oyster River

Individuals: D. Genes suggested the CC might reach out to knowledgeable residents for information on conserving high priority properties, wetland protection, culvert replacement, etc.

Submitted by: Catherine Fisher