

**Lee Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting of July 26, 2022**

Present: Dawn Genes (Chair), Mimi Winder (Secretary), Catherine Fisher, Dave Shay, Anne Tappan

Alternate member: Laurel Cox, Mark Nelson

Emeritus: Bill Humm

Select Board (BOS) Representative: Scott Bugbee

Others present: Martin Thornton, Lee Trails Committee representative

Approval of Minutes of June 28 Meeting: C. Fisher moved to accept, A. Tappan seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by Lee Conservation Commission (LCC) members.

Treasurer's Report: A. Gourgue submitted by email as follows:

Two expenses were paid, one to D. Shay (\$50) for permits and one to D. Sugerman (\$10.98) for paintbrushes. A. Gourgue noted some minor discrepancies over the past year, which she will resolve.

Current balances are:

David Allan Fund Account	\$2,703.13
LCC Account	\$2,640.30
Total of	\$5,343.43

FY23 Budget was reviewed and discussed by LCC members.

OLD BUSINESS

Education/Outreach:

Social Media: A. Gourgue reported outcomes from our Facebook (FB) page: June 27 – July 24.

People Reached 5,545 (down 8%)

Post Engagements 1,252 (down 25%)

Page Likes 4 (down 79%)

C. Fisher's post from July 18th reached the most people this month with 3,000 people reached, 66 post clicks, C. Fisher's post from and 97 reactions, comments, and share. D. Sugerman's post from July 5th about the last bridge that the Trails Committee was viewed by 425 people, 107 post clicks, and 190 reactions, comments, and shares.

Articles for E-Crier/FB: C. Fisher reported that she had written three nature articles and D. Sugerman posted 1 article for "Trails Tuesday".

Easement Monitoring: C. Fisher reported that the monitoring was performed as scheduled.

Monitoring visits scheduled for August: Old Mill Road Reserve (8/3), Schulz/Friedlander (8/17) Humphrey (8/24), Brisard (formerly, Palmer Property) (8/31)

Lee Trails Committee: M. Thornton reported on the following:

Bridge update:

LRP – short bridge could use a ramp. D. Shay will check with DES on permit requirements.

Town Forest Bridge – Bridge #4 completed.

Maud Jones Memorial Forest – permit complete for 2 bridges. Work to be scheduled in Sep/Oct., additional funds will be needed; will request additional funds (ARPA) from Select Board.

REACH Program: Event was a success, students worked on cleanup and repair of cemetery behind library.

Maps: Contract with Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) to have maps made for trails at LRP, MJMF and TF has been signed. LTC is interested in participating in the process.

Kiosks: Information/price for kiosks by Timberhomes VT was presented. LCC members requested that local woodworkers be contacted for quotes.

TF trail have been given names: Yellow trail – *The Roundabout*; White trail – *The Crosswalk*

Future projects: Proposed – 4 bridges and puncheons (estimated cost \$3500)

Horse Chestnut Tree donated by D. Sugerman: An objection to accept the tree was expressed due to the potential invasive nature of this non-native tree. However, the Memorial Field Plaza (next to Mast Way School) was suggested as a possible location for planting the tree.

Invasive Plant Control Efforts: A. Tappan reported that she has been working to eliminate Japanese Knotweed at the Joe Ford property along Laynes Brook. This requires weekly cutting/pulling. This location turned out to be inappropriate for using hardware cloth control screen. However, this technique to help with knotweed control is being considered for Lee Five Corners.

Comments to Other Agencies/Boards:

D. Genes reported that the ZBA, Chair appreciates the timeliness and thoroughness of LCC letters.

83 & 85 Steppingstone Road:

Site visit minutes: D. Genes moved to accept, C. Fisher seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by LCC members.

Shed at #83 A. Tappan presented a draft letter for ZBA. This was reviewed and discussed.

House #85 A. Tappan presented a draft letter for the ZBA. This was reviewed and discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Bikes on Town Owned Land: In general, the LCC feels that bikes are in conflict with the LCC overarching goal of making these lands safe and accessible while doing no harm to the environment. In addition, restricting bike access is difficult to enforce. Education and signage is necessary. Next steps will be to evaluate the easement language for each property to determine if bikes are restricted/allowed. In addition it might be useful to have representatives from LTC members or other groups interested in allowing bikes to present information to the LCC on trail bike impacts.

LRP Celebration: LCC will host a booth at the Lee Fair (9/17) to include acknowledgment of the completion of the Little River Trail (LRT) project per Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) grant. The booth will also include information pertaining to other LCC projects.

Native Plant Trust: NPT would like to conduct a survey of dwarf huckleberry located on the bog behind the town hall. The LCC supports this and is happy to coordinate a visit.

Conservation Easement: D. Genes reported that a new conservation easement is in the beginning stages of conversation.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Submitted by Mimi Winder