

**Lee Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting of August 30, 2022**

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

**Alternate member:** Laurel Cox

**Select Board (BOS) Representative:** Scott Bugbee

**Others present:** John Hutton, Coppal House Farm

**Approval of Minutes of July 26 Meeting:** C. Fisher moved to accept, D. Shay seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by Lee Conservation Commission (LCC) members.

**Treasurer's Report:** A. Gourgue reported via email as follows:

Current balances are:

David Allan Fund Account	\$2,703.13
LCC Account	\$2,640.30
<b>Total of</b>	<b>\$5,343.43</b>

FY24 Budget was reviewed and discussed by LCC members. D. Genes will present to the Advisory Budget Committee.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Education/Outreach:**

**Social Media:** A. Gourgue reported via email outcomes from our Facebook page: July 31st - Aug 27th

People Reached 6,493 (down 3%)

Post Engagements 1,219 (down 15%)

Page Likes 2 (down 71%)

Catherine's posts for August all did well. However, the best one was from August 1st, which was the Hummingbird Moths. It reached 2,300 people reached, 51 post clicks, and 130 reactions, comments, and share.

**Articles for E-Crier/FB:** C. Fisher reported via email the following: Five articles were written which appeared in both the Lee E-Crier and the Cons. Com. Facebook (FB) page. Two of the articles (Rorschach beetle (8/8) and Wasp Mantidfly (8/22)) were picked up and posted by the NH Assoc. of Cons. Coms. Plans are being made with the Lee Library's Youth Services Librarian, Judy Belanger, for two children's nature walks in September. One will be a morning pre-school walk, the other will be held with Mast Way students who participate in the Library's after school program. Dates have not yet been selected, but the walks will likely take place mid-month. Because these walks draw a much larger crowd of participants than is usual, they are not advertised in the E-Crier or on FB.

**Easement Monitoring:** D. Shay reported via email easement properties monitored since last meeting: Ellis Oyster River Park on July 27; Schulz-Friedlander property on August 17; Humphrey property, August 24.

Action Required: The monitoring team suggests the LCC do future monitoring of the Humphrey property from the town owned property on Turtle Pond Road, possibly combining it with the Quigley/McLean monitoring date.

Upcoming easement monitoring: Brisard (formerly, Palmer) (8/31); Noble (9/14); Chisholm (formerly, Blickle) (9/21); Verrette (9/28)

**Lee Trails Committee:** D. Sugerman reported via email on continuing work of the committee. A brief discussion of the expenditure request followed and the following motion was made.

D. Sugerman moved to spend the following money \$1050: to replace Bridge #1 (\$200) and Bridge #3 (\$625) and replace treads on Bridge #8 (\$225). C. Fisher seconded and the motion was on was unanimously approved by LCC members.

1. MJMF

- a. Abutter letter sent 8.15.22
- b. New trail flagged 8.18.22
- c. Trail walk for interested abutters 8.27.22 (1 person came)
- d. Date for building the bridge to be determined at 8.31.22 meeting
- e. Money for bridge coming from ARPA
- f. Deb to ask BOS for additional ARPA money for Esker bridge Sept. 17

2. Town Forest

- a. Bridge re-evaluation completed by Martin Thornton
- b. Costing information for bridges
- c. Bridge replacement to take place this fall and next spring

3. SRPC trail mapping project

- a. Postponed until early October so that all the trails are ready to be mapped
- b. Trails Committee members will walk the trails with SRPC when they are data collecting

4. QR codes

- a. We have a template and will rewrite others to match this one
- b. Thanks to Amanda and her design team!

5. Bylaw amendment

- a. Amendment will be voted on at 8.31.22 meeting
- b. Next step will be to email all alternate members to find out interest in being on the committee
- c. We will then re-evaluate the needs of the committee

6. Spending procedures

- a. We set up a new system to better keep track of receipts, expense forms, and received checks
- b. We will review and vote on it at the 8.31.22 meeting

7. Durham/Great Bay Rotary

- a. Deb did a presentation on August 10 to 10 Rotarians who were interested in knowing about the Lee trails and how they can help with the Trails Committee.
- b. Deb will send the media person dates for bridge replacements and he will let the members know.

8. Collaborations

- a. Historical Society - we would like to help the Historical Society figure out a better way to display pictures currently thumbtacked to trees
- b. Library - project for families to make scarecrows and put along the library trail

**Town Lands:**

**Native Plant Trust (NPT)** Gaylussacia bigeloviana (Dwarf Huckleberry): C. Fisher reported the following via email: On Friday, August 26, C. Fisher and Native Plant Trust members Celia Abrams, Barb Wauchope, and Scott Young, conducted a survey of G. bigeloviana in the Lee Town Bog. This plant is listed as State Threatened (T) by the New Hampshire Heritage Bureau's 2019 Rare Plant

Taxa list. I am happy to report that it is abundantly present in the Town Bog; in open areas it is, in fact, the dominant plant species. Only where highbush blueberry and black spruce form thickets, does *G. Bigeloviana* peter out. The species is present in both the larger, more easterly bog and the smaller, westerly bog; though as the latter has more thickets highbush blueberry present, and seems to have areas of richer substrate, *G. Bigeloviana* is not quite as exuberantly present. This has been a bountiful fruiting season for several of the bogs' Ericaceae species, and that is certainly the case with *G. bigeloviana* - the fruits were large and plentiful and fruit-eating birds such as catbirds, robins, and cedar waxwings were present throughout the hours we spent conducting the survey. Other vertebrates, notably deer, are also feeding on these fruits. Bee and wasp species, particularly non-native honeybees (*Apis mellifera*), were numerous and were clearly feeding on these fruits. A plant list was compiled by C. Abrams; any species not included in the species list for the Town Forest will be added when the CE Summary for this property is compiled.

**Paper Birch Syrup Research Project:** Dave Moore made a request to cut a temporary trail using only hand tools. C. Fisher moved to allow Dave Moore to cut a temporary path for access to the Birch Study area. D. Shay seconded and the motion was unanimously approved by the LCC members.

**Randy Stevens Forestry Plan:** D. Genes moved to approve the Forestry Management and Harvest Plan Stevens Family Trust – Lee, NH 4-27-22. C. Fisher seconded and the motion was unanimously approved by the LCC members.

**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. A. Tappan shared some of the easement language for Town Forest, and Maude Jones Memorial Forest, which states that the land is for pedestrian use only. The Mills Reserve limits activity to dispersed passive outdoor recreational uses. In addition, Society for the Protection of NH forests policy was shared as it is a backup holder for the easement of the Town Forest. The LCC needs to identify appropriate trails for bikes, if any. Any decision to allow or restrict bike access will have to go to the Select Board for evaluation of liability and enforcement. Education and outreach will be necessary to enforce any decision on this topic.

The following report was submitted by A. Tappan via email.

### **ZBA Hearing, Mitchell**

**House Variance request:** Approved. The recommendations of the CC to be attached. Correcting the configuration of the silt fence was specifically noted.

**Shed Variance Request:** Set back issues unresolved, ZBA will conduct a site walk. Hearing to be continued.

Action Required: none

**Planning Board (PB) Hearing, Wiswell:** The Wiswell application for a two bay carwash on Rte. 4 went before the PB on 8/24. A. Tappan attended. The landscape plan has been updated. I requested and received the current plan. The PB accepted the application. The plan will be reviewed by the town engineer.

Action Required: A possible final hearing is scheduled for 14 Sept. A. Tappan will attend.

**Hunting Seasons & Posting:** NH F&G 2022 Deer Season Dates for WMU L (includes Lee)

Archery: Sept 15 - Dec 15  
Muzzleloader: Oct 29 - Nov 8  
Firearms: Nov 9 - Dec 4

For more details go to: [Welcome | New Hampshire Fish and Game Department \(state.nh.us\)](https://www.state.nh.us/fishandgame/)

**Action Required:** Hunting is not allowed on the following Town Lands: Town Forest, Maude Jones Memorial Forest, Lee 5 Corners, Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary, and LRP- Mills Reserve

“No Hunting” signs need to be checked and refreshed/replaced as needed. Signs are available in the CC office. Do we need to restock signs? Who is checking/posting which lands?

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Coppal House Farm new structure proposal:** John Hutton of Coppal House Farm would like to build a pole barn for farm equipment and provide a safe place in inclement weather for guests at the sunflower festival and corn maze. Because of bears attacking his sheep he needs to house his sheep at barns that previously housed his farm equipment. He will work with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to evaluate the space to determine if this is a viable plan. He hopes to build this next spring. In addition, he plans to remove oak and hemlock trees on approximately 7-10 acres of forest to eliminate acorns and nuts, which draw wildlife, which are destructive to his commercial fields. The LCC will plan a site walk.

**Hunting Seasons and Posting:** A. Tappan reported that Deer season (archery) starts Sept 15. No hunting signs need to be checked on the Town Forest, Maude Jones, Lee 5 Corners, Joe Ford, and LRP-Mills Reserve. Signs should be placed at all public access points and along roadsides. D. Genes will check Town Forest and LRP Mills; A. Tappan will check Lee 5 Corners and Joe Ford; D. Sugerman will check Maude Jones.

**Lee Fair:** 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. Further planning for this event will take place via email.

**Adjourn:** 6:20 pm

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 27, 2022**

Submitted by: MimiWinder