

**Lee Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting of September 27, 2022**

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

Alternate member: Laurel Cox

Emeritus: Bill Humm

Select Board (BOS) Representative: Scott Bugbee

Approval of Minutes of August 30 Meeting: D. Sugerman moved to accept, D. Shay seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by Lee Conservation Commission (LCC) members.

There was a brief discussion of the format for future minutes. It was agreed that the minutes provide a record of what happened at the meeting. Individual reports with more detailed information will be attached and included as appendices to the minutes.

Budget FY 24: D. Genes submitted a revised budget and will submit this to the Advisory Budget Committee (ABC) this week.

C. Fisher moved to accept the budget as amended (small typo), D. Shay seconded and the motion was unanimously approved by Lee Conservation Commission (LCC) members.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurers/Social Media: A. Gourgue submitted via email. Report attached.

Education/Outreach: C. Fisher submitted via email. Report attached.

Easement Monitoring: D. Shay submitted via email. Report attached.

Lee Trails Committee: D. Sugerman submitted via email. Report attached.

Invasive Working Group: A. Tappan submitted via email. Report attached.

Coppal House Farm new structure proposal: A site walk is planned. Proposed dates are 10/3 or 10/4 at 2pm. D. Genes will confirm with John Hutton.

Native Plant Trust (NPT): Barb Wauchope is continuing her monitoring/inventory work with NPT. Contact her if you are interested in helping out.

NEW BUSINESS

Wadleigh Falls Canoe Launch repair: Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) requests approval from LCC to move forward on repairs to the Lee Public Canoe Access. A. Tappan would like to have a site visit with a member from LRAC. The CC will request that LRAC submit an article to the eCrier to inform the public of this project. This project will also need to be reviewed by the Lee Board of Selectmen. D. Shay moved to approve the Wetlands Permit by Notification application prepared by LRAC. C. Fisher seconded and the motion was unanimously approved by the LCC.

Little River Trail Celebration: Scheduled for October 15, 10am. D. Sugerman requested LCC members RSVP to her. Members of the community will be invited via the eCrier.

Little River Park (LRP) erosion control plan: D. Genes shared information on the area of concern at LRP. A work day will be planned. D. Sugerman will share this information/request with the Trails Committee members interested in helping. LTC will propose possible dates for a work day. The Select Board and Recreation Commission should be notified. It was suggested that an eCrier article be written to notify the public of this action.

Invasive Buckthorn at Maude Jones Memorial Forest (MJMF): Don Quigley reported that there is an outcropping of glossy buckthorn that could use attention. A. Tappan will work with him to plan a project day.

Old Mill: D. Genes invited Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to join the LCC for the OLD Mill monitoring on October 19 at 9am.

Grants: A. Tappan shared that there may be grant money available for wildlife projects through the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act. ShThe CC should keep this in mind as we are developing habitat management plans.

Multimodal use of Trails Policy: D. Genes shared an outline for a process to determine policy for town land trail use. A sub group (D. Genes, C. Fisher, D. Sugerman, A. Tappan) was formed to develop and research this topic.

Historic Signage: S. Bugbee reported that LRAC and Lee Heritage Commission plan to install Historic Signs at Wadleigh Falls.

Adjourn: 6:30 pm

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 5pm

Submitted by: _____
MimiWinder

September 27, 2022

Submitted by A. Gourgue

Treasurer's Report

David Allan Fund Account \$2,703.13

LCC Account \$2,640.30

Total of \$5,343.43

Social Media Report

August 29th - September 25th

People Reached 4,496 (down 28%)

Post Engagements 1,348 (up 12%)

Page Likes 5 (up 400%)

Our most popular post was from September 19th and it was Catherine's post about the Little Eagle. It reached 1,552 people reached, 21 post clicks, and 58 reactions, comments, and share. We did have a lot of conversation around this topic!

Trails Committee Report to Lee Conservation Commission - 9.27.22

1. Trails Committee members voted last month on an amendment to the Bylaws, stating that all members must attend at least 50% of meetings during the calendar year.
 - a. Alternate Members were contacted about the new amendment and asked if they were able to continue on the committee. All resigned and asked to be put on the volunteer list.
 - b. This will be discussed at our next meeting to decide if we want to invite others to join the committee.
2. Completion of MJMF bridge and work done on new Boulder Trail, 9.23-24.22
 - a. Four volunteers in addition to Trails Committee
3. BOS awarded the committee \$400 to help with bridges.
4. LTC will be designing T-shirts for the committee
5. LTC will be doing a scarecrow for the library (a scary hiker!!!)
6. Oct. 15, 10am - celebration at Little River Park concerning the completion of the Little River Trail
 - a. You should have received an invitation: let Deb know if you are able to attend

Biking on conservation land

Definitions of passive recreation:

Passive recreation means non-motorized outdoor recreational activities, such as nature observation, hiking, biking, and canoeing or kayaking, that require a minimum of facilities or development and that have minimal environmental impact on natural resources. [Reference](#)

Passive recreation refers to recreational activities that do not require prepared facilities like sports fields or pavilions. Passive recreational activities place minimal stress on a site's resources; as a result, they can provide ecosystem service benefits and are highly compatible with natural resource protection. [Reference](#)

Policies of NH towns concerning bikes on town trails:

[Hopkinton](#) allows bikes

[Amherst](#) allows bikes only on certain trails

[Exeter](#) allows bikes but doesn't allow them to make new trails
They changed town [ordinances](#) to allow for biking on trails

[Weston](#), MA allows bikes and has restrictions
They require that bikers follow NEMBA rules

Nottingham does not allow bikes on their trails and sends people to Pawtuckaway State Park

Barrington:

Harlan Calef Isinglass Preserve... Yes

Goodwill Conservation Area....Yes

SATWaSR.... Yes

Barrington Town Forest.... Yes

My suggestion would be to meet with Conservation Commissions from nearby towns that allow and don't allow bikes on trails to talk with them about what went into their decisions. We could also meet with the New England Mountain Bike Association to get information from them. We might consider putting together a small work group that includes LCC, LTC, and members from the community to look at all options.

Lee Conservation Commission

Monthly Written Report

Meeting date Report Prepared For: September 27, 2022

Topic: Easement Monitoring

Submitted by: David Shay

Activity since meeting of August 30, 2022

Easement properties monitored since last meeting included:

August 31 – Palmer/Brisard

September 10 (Saturday) – Sanborn

September 14 – Noble Farm/Daley

September 21 – Brickle/Chisholm

Action Required:

The monitoring team may want to consider accommodating property owners' work schedules so that they can participate in monitoring their properties. Possibly schedule times for after work (preferred) or the occasional weekend day.

Monthly Report For: 9/27/22 CC meeting

Submitted by: Anne Tappan and Mimi Winder

Topic: ZBA and PB Reports

No activity

Topic: Lee Fair, Habitat Helpers

Activity since last CC meeting:

Mimi and Anne set up a display about Habitat Helpers as part of the CC display at the Fair. Two people signed up.

Action Required:

A habitat project will be planned. Pulling glossy buckthorn at Maude Jones Memorial Forest is a likely first project. Mimi and Anne will confer with Don Quigley. We will keep the CC informed.

Topic: Invasive Plant Conversation for Conservation Commissions

Activity since last CC meeting:

Mimi and Anne attended a workshop “Invasive Plant Conversation for Conservation Commissions” led by Rebecca DiGirolomo, UNH Extension Natural Resource Field Specialist, Tom Brightman, Land Stewardship Coordinator for the Town of Durham, and Ellen Snyder, Ibis Wildlife Consulting. The field portion was held at Thompson Forest, Durham. The indoor session was held at the Durham Town Hall. A power point presentation gave guidance for conservation commissions to implement a town wide stewardship plan for conserved lands including inventory, setting priorities, and boots on the ground activities. Developing sustainable strategies that work with available resources was discussed. Follow-up material will be sent to participants and will be forwarded to LCC members. Mimi inquired about an invasive plant ID workshop.

Action Required:

Implementation of a long term plan for land stewardship on town conserved lands should be considered. This is a big project. Currently the CC has several ongoing discussions about

habitat management needed on Lee conserved lands. Initiating action, at a future meeting, on developing a plan for land stewardship is recommended.

Lee Conservation Commission Monthly Written Report

For: September 27, 2022

Submitted by: Catherine Fisher

Topic: Education/Outreach; Personal education

Activity since meeting of August 30, 2022:

EDUCATION/OUTREACH:

Articles: Three articles were written which appeared in both the Lee E-Crier and the Cons. Com. Facebook (FB) page.

Nature Walks:

September 15: Led two nature walks with the Lee Library's Youth Services Librarian, Judy Belanger: The 10:30 preschool walk had only two people, but was great fun. The 3:30 after school walk had 20 children attending.

October: Plans have been made two walks, one for preschoolers and the other for the children in the library's afterschool program. Dates have yet to be finalized.

PERSONAL EDUCATION:

Participated in a New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commission's (NHACC) "Lunch and Learn" remote program on Technology and its Impact on Stewardship: Conservation Land Monitoring using GPS. This was taught by Charlotte Harding, Stewardship Specialist, NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program (CLSP), who participated in our three-properties-in-one-morning monitoring session that was held in May.