

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

November 15, 2022

Present: Dawn Genes (Chair), Mimi Winder (Secretary), Amanda Gourgue (Treasurer), Dave Shay, Deb Sugerman, Anne Tappan

Alternate member: Laurel Cox

Guest: David Moore, UNH Birch Sap Researcher

Motion to approve the Minutes of October 19 Meeting: D. Sugerman moved to accept, D. Shay seconded; the motion was unanimously approved by Lee Conservation Commission (LCC) members.

Motion to approve the Minutes of Oct 19 Site Walk at Old Mill: D. Sugerman moved to accept, D. Shay seconded; the motion was unanimously approved by LCC members.

Motion to reimburse D. Genes (\$60) for attending New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC): A. Tappan moved to accept, D. Shay seconded; the motion was unanimously approved by LCC members.

Town Report was discussed and will be sent to Asst Town Administrator as written.

Treasurers/Social Media: A. Gourgue submitted via email. Report attached. The monitoring schedule for 2023 was reviewed and discussed.

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

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

- D. Sugerman has received the bike use counter data and will report findings when she has had a chance to review them.
- Drafts of the trail maps created by Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) were shared. Any comments should be directed to D. Sugerman.

PB/ZBA/ Old Mill/Stewardship Workshop: A. Tappan submitted via email. Report attached.

Invasive Control: M. Winder submitted via email. Report attached.

NEW BUSINESS

Birch Sap Research Project: Dave Moore

D. Moore would like to set up 2 solar panels at his study site at Mills Reserve for his sap pumps. He may need to dig a trench, probably no more than 6 inches, to run a small conduit for wires to connect the panels to his battery. He hopes to complete this work by December. Installation may involve some minimal cutting of shrubs to allow for maximum exposure for the solar panels. The pumps will run from mid-March to early April. Appropriate town officials (town secretary, police, public works, Planning & Zoning Administration) should be informed so that they can respond to possible questions from the public. A. Tappan noted this site is a woodcock singing ground and they will be active at this time so care should be taken not to disturb the birds. A. Tappan will coordinate a site visit with Dave to select the site for the panels.

Camperships for Lee Youth: There was a brief discussion of camps to be included for scholarships. D. Genes will draft an application form for review then post in the e-Crier. December 31 is the deadline to have the applications back from the public.

New Conservations Easements: The CC continues to encourage potential new easement properties.

Adjourn: 6:36 pm

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, December 20, 5pm

Submitted by MimiWinder

Amanda Gourgue Sat, Nov 12, 9:54 PM (20 hours ago)

Treasurer's Report

David Allan Fund Account \$2,703.13

LCC Account \$13,519.58

Total of \$15,972.66

The only expense that we had this month was the NHACC 2023 membership dues for \$250.00 that you all approved at the last meeting.

Social Media Report

October 15th - November 11th

People Reached 4,120 (down 26%)

Post Engagements 965 (down 54%)

Page Likes 6 (down 45%)

Our most popular post was from October 24th and it was Catherine's post about the Doll Eyes. It reached 1,600 people reached, 45 post clicks, and 32 reactions, comments, and share. I will note something very interesting. Catherine's post on November 7th was a repost but it still did really well. Super nifty to see. It reached 1,200, 24 post clicks, and 48 reactions, comments, and share. Great job!

Monitoring Schedule

While we are done for 2022, I have put a 2023 schedule in the spreadsheet. I would love feedback. Feel free to just respond to me so we obey all email rules. I'll put together all the comments for a future meeting. The dates in bold are Saturdays. These are properties where people said that they would have walked with the group, if they weren't working.

Lee Conservation Commission Monthly Written Report

For: November 15, 2022

Submitted by: Catherine Fisher

Topic: Education/Outreach

Activity since meeting of October 19, 2022

Articles: Three nature articles were written during this time period. All three appeared on the Cons. Com. Facebook (FB) page. Two of the articles appeared in the E-Crier (E-Crier did not go out on November 11).

An article about the Little River Park River Trail Celebration was written and appeared in the E-Crier.

On November 7, an edited article was posted on our FB page, which I wrote in October 2020; this had appeared as a section of my weekly "Nature Notes" and had been posted on our FB page, in the E-Crier, and the Oyster River School District.

Nature Walks:

October 20: A walk taken with 14 children participating in the Lee Library's afterschool program. In keeping with the spooky season, skulls from a score of native mammals were on display, giving the children the opportunity to compare differences and similarities between skulls of carnivores and herbivores, and compare similarities between different species belonging to the same family.

October 27: A walk taken with parents and children who participate in the Lee Library's preschool program. Nuts and berries was our loose theme for this walk. Ten people participated.

Two more walks are planned with the above groups and will take place in early/mid December.

A post-Thanksgiving/pre-Xmas walk on Forest Evergreens, is in the works.

Actions Required: An article advertising the above walk will be written and run in our FB page and the E-Crier.

Lee Trails Committee Report to Conservation Commission November 15, 2022

We have two new Alternate members on the committee: Greg Ewing and Naomi Alldredge. Greg has been helping with bridges and maintenance since the committee started and decided to step up to being on the committee. Naomi is new to town (1 month), heard about the committee and asked to join. She has a lot of experience with trail maintenance.

Trails Committee members joined Conservation Commission members on Oct. 31 for a site walk at the Town Forest to look at trails through the lens of bicycle use.

Trails Committee members joined Conservation Commission members on Nov. 7 for erosion control at Little River Park.

Bridge #3 will be replaced Dec. 3 from 10am - 4pm. We will be hauling materials to the site on Dec. 2 from 9-12.

One of our winter goals is to complete writing projects including the website, kiosk information, and QR code material. I will be sending drafts to the Conservation Commission throughout the winter. I really appreciate your edits!

Another winter goal is to update all our systems on Google so that we capture dates, times, and numbers of people attending all events. This will make writing reports much easier.

Monthly Report For 11/15/22 CC meeting

Submitted by: Anne Tappan

Topic: ZBA and PB Reports

Activity since last CC meeting:

No activity. No action on proposed Hutton project.

Action Required:

Contact Hutton or PZB for update on project status

Topic: Old Mill, Contractors

Activity since last CC meeting:

At the Old Mill site walk with NRCS, they requested that LCC provide a list of contractors for the project. Project specifics are still TBD. I have started a list of possible contractors

Action Required:

I will continue to put together a list.

Topic: Stewardship Workshop

Activity since last CC meeting:

At the Oct. CC meeting, we discussed a workshop to help guide us in stewardship planning. I have contacted Rebecca DiGirolomo, UNH Coop. Ext. Natural Resources Field Specialist regarding a workshop. She is happy to work on this and will contact colleagues to assist. The initial proposal is that the workshop is open to other towns with the focus of ““What is Stewardship and how to get started”. One-on-one with the LCC is also an option.

Action Required:

No action by the CC is needed at present. I will keep the CC posted as plans develop.

Monthly Report For 11/15/22 CC meeting

Submitted by: Mimi Winder

Summary: Nov 7 workday at Mills Reserve. M. Winder cut autumn olive and buckthorn and applied road cloth and plastic on the stumps to prevent (hopefully) regrowth.

Topic: Invasive Plant control – Mills Reserve

Work Day at Mills Reserve – November 7, 2022

M. Winder cut Autumn Olive and Buckthorn at the site. Road Cloth was laid over the stumps in the hopes of preventing/reducing regrowth. In addition, plastic covering were secured over buckthorn stumps.

Action: These coverings will need to be checked from time to time over the next 1-2 years. It will be interesting to learn if these techniques will be effective in controlling these invasive plants. Signs will be put up in the next week to explain what's going on, i.e., CC Work In Progress.