

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes January 17, 2023

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

Alternate member: Laurel Cox, Mark Nelson

Emeritus: Bill Humm

Select Board Representative: Scott Bugbee (arrived 4:40)

Others Present: Matthew McCormack, Civil Engineer, TF Moran Portsmouth, Elizabeth Copley, Lee resident

Motion to approve the Minutes of November 17 Meeting: D. Shay moved to accept, D. Sugerman seconded; the motion was unanimously approved by Lee Conservation Commission (LCC) members.

Motion: to reimburse M. Winder \$39.99 for road cloth to use for invasive plant control. D. Sugerman moved to accept, D. Shay seconded; the motion was unanimously approved by LCC members.

Motion to pay Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) \$1,020 for the design of trail maps for the Town Forest, Little River Park, and Maud Jones Memorial forest. D. Sugerman moved to accept, D. Shay seconded; the motion was unanimously approved by LCC members.

Motion to allow the Trails Committee to purchase materials to build 5 kiosks not to exceed \$1300. C. Fischer moved to accept, D. Shay seconded; the motion was unanimously approved by LCC members.

REPORTS

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

PB/ZBA/ Invasives projects: A. Tappan submitted via email. Report attached.

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

- There was a discussion of unauthorized people cutting trees and moving trail barriers on town land. It was suggested that information on trail etiquette be included in the kiosk signage and articles placed in the e-Crier.
- There is a concern over unclear, unmarked boundaries in some areas of the TF. D. Sugerman will follow up with areas to be surveyed and research surveyors and cost.

NEW BUSINESS

Aubuchon Hardware new addition proposal: M. McCormack presented plans for a proposed addition to the Aubuchon Hardware store at the Lee Circle. He is requesting variances to address the wetlands setback requirements and increase the impervious area to provide required additional parking. The plans were discussed and the LCC requested further information on why the addition was not located on the Rt 4 side of the building. A site walk was scheduled for January 19 at 9:30am.

Town Forest: Elizabeth Copley expressed concerns on the use of Town Forest Land which abuts her property. She noted that folks are hunting on this land. While she personally has no issues with hunting on the land she suggests that since hunting is not permitted in the TF, the land be posted.

Herbicide Contractor: M. Winder proposed that LCC consider hiring an herbicide contractor to perform invasive herbicide treatment. The LCC is in support of this and the invasives working group will consider appropriate projects for herbicide treatment and associated costs.

OLD BUSINESS

Camperships for Lee Youth:

The CC plans to award 4 camp scholarships to Lee kids in the amount of \$150 each. D. Genes shared a proposed article for e-Crier to announce CC sponsored camp scholarships. The article was discussed and she plans to post it in this week's e-Crier. The applicants will be reviewed and chosen at the next meeting.

Outreach Workshops: M. Winder plans to schedule an Invasive plant ID workshop with Rebecca DiGiorolomo, Natural Resources Field Specialist, Forestry, UNH Extension in the spring. A second workshop topic on forestry management and hazard trees was discussed. This might be targeted to NH Conservation Commission members. Mimi will follow up with Rebecca to determine the best approach for these workshops.

2023 Calendar: M. Winder and D. Genes will work on a tentative schedule of activities and projects.

SRPC bicycle data for Town Forest: Discussion was tabled.

Adjourn: 5:40 pm

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Submitted by: _____
MimiWinder

Amanda Gourgue - LCC Treasurer's Report, Social Media Report, and Monitoring Update

Treasurer's Report

David Allan Fund Account \$2,703.08

LCC Account \$13,209.58

Total of \$15,912.66

The only expense that we had since our last meeting was reimbursement to Dawn for the NHACC Annual Meeting.

Social Media Report

December 18th - January 14th

People Reached 11,589 (up 32%)

Post Engagements 2,188 (up 138%)

Page Likes 5 (no change)

Our most popular post was from December 30th and it was one of my funny Friday posts...the crowbar one. It reached 8,600 people, 147 post clicks, and 414 reactions, comments, and share.

Monitoring Schedule

No updates – 2023 schedule is approved.

Monthly Report for 1/17/23 Lee CC meeting.
Reporting on Dec. 2022 topics, No CC meeting held in December.

Submitted by: Anne Tappan & Mimi Winder

Topic: ZBA and PBReports(A.T.&M.W.)

Activity since last CC meeting:

Wiswell, Car Wash: In compliance with the CC recommendations to the ZBA regarding removal of invasive plants, the CC was contacted by the applicant to meet on site to mark invasives for removal. The approved site had already been fully cleared and most invasives were already removed. Prior to the site visit M.Winder flagged additional buckthorn for removal. While on site berry laden multiflora were noted and flagged. A.Tappan removed and disposed all multiflora berries on a subsequent visit. A. Wiswell agreed to remove (pull) the flagged buckthorn and multiflora rose the next time appropriate equipment was on site.

Action Required:

Project update, no action.

Topic: Ford Field Mowing

Activity since last CC meeting:

The 2022 Ford field mowing was done in mid-November. As discussed with C. Cox, the north half of the field and the area at the equipment shed was mowed.

Action Required:

Waiting for an invoice from C. Cox. At the 19 Oct. 2022 meeting the CC approved paying for themowing (up to \$500)

Topic: Birch Sap Project, Solar Panels(A.T.&M.W.)

Activity since last CC meeting:

At the 15 Nov. 2022 CC meeting, David Moore requested permission to set up two small solar panels near the study site to charge batteries to run the sap pumps. Two sites were proposed. Pros and cons of each site were discussed. M. Winder and A. Tappan met on site with D. Moore. The site requiring digging a trench across the trail to run wires in a buried conduit was deemed acceptable. In a late Dec. e-mail D. Moore reported that the ground was frozen and inquired if it was possible to run the cables across the surface of the trail in a cable protector. A. Tappan expressed concerns about public safety, snow mobile traffic, and liability for the town. D. Moore agreed to set up the panels on the same side of the trail as the study site to avoid crossing the trail. As of 10 Jan. 2023 solar panels had not been set up.

Action Required:

A. Tappan will notify town officials (Town Admin., C. Rossi, S. Bullek, & Police Chief) once the panels are in place.

Topic: Invasives Working Group Meeting(A.T. &M.W.)

Activity since last CC meeting:

The Invasives Working Group (currently A. Tappan and M. Winder) met in early December to discuss invasives control projects for 2023. Projects about invasives on eight town conserved properties were considered, including details for each parcel (purpose, target species, levels of infestation, when, who does work, permits needed and more.) We are looking into contractors (services provided and costs) to assist with invasive control. In early December, M. Winder cut glossy buckthorn in the Little River floodplain and installed plastic coverings to inhibit regrowth.

Workshops - Two potential workshops are being planned with Rebecca DiGirolomo, Natural Resources Field Specialist, Forestry, UNH Extension; An Invasive plant ID workshop, to be held in April and possible Emerald Ash Borer workshop.

Invasive Plant Control Priority Properties and Projects include:

Maude Jones Memorial Forest – glossy buckthorn. Control by pulling or cut and cover with buckthorn baggies. Late spring through early summer.

Lamprey River Canoe Launch – glossy buckthorn. Control by pulling or cut and cover with buckthorn baggies. Early spring through early summer.

Mills Reserve/Little River Park – Projects encompass at least three different areas and associated species.

 Around athletic field: Garlic mustard & Dame's Rocket. Control by pulling. May into early June. Black locust. Control by cutting or cover with buckthorn baggies. Any time.

 Woodcock habitat: Several species of woody invasives. Control by cutting, pulling, buckthorn baggies, mowing. When berries not present.

 Flood Plain at river: Japanese barberry, glossy buckthorn. Control by pulling or cut and cover with buckthorn baggies. Late spring through early summer.

Old Mill and Kelly Reserves: NRCS has the lead on this project to reclaim and maintain early successional habitat.

Ford Wildlife Sanctuary: Schedule mowing field in the late fall. Work with NHEC to maximize their 2023 ROW power line clearing to benefit wildlife and control invasives. Continue to remove Japanese knotweed along Layne's Brook. Work with SELT to develop a realistic plan to control invasives.

Action Required:

Ongoing discussion by CC and tentative scheduling of prioritized projects put on 2023 Activity Calendar. Funding sources for projects.

Trails Committee Report to Lee Conservation Commission - 1.17.23

- Final bridge build of 2022 (Bridge 3 at TF) on Dec. 3
 - a. We will continue working in the spring
- Trail maps by SRPC completed
 - a. They will be posted on the kiosks and on the LTC website
 - b. The LTC website is not completed yet - should we post the maps on the LCC website in the meantime?
 - c. **Motion:** I move that the CC pays SRPC \$1,020.00 for the design of trail maps for the Town Forest, Little River Park, and Maud Jones Memorial Forest.
- Kiosk design voted by the Trails Committee: similar to the kiosk at Maud Jones Memorial Forest (simple, fits in with the environment, hinged door in rear to access materials, economical to build)
 - a. Trails Committee will begin building five kiosks (3 in the Town Forest, 1 at Little River Park, and 1 at Maud Jones Memorial Forest) in February
 - b. Placement of the kiosks will be in the spring when we are able to dig the ground
 - c. **Motion:** I move that the CC allow the Trails Committee (I will have the figure for the meeting) for the purchase of wood and materials to build five kiosks.
- No Bicycling signs to be posted at Maud Jones Memorial Forest
- Special projects:
 - a. Trails Committee T-shirts
 - b. Collaboration with the library on trail related bingo and passport activities
 - c. Working on TC website and QR codes
- Trail concerns at the Town Forest
 - a. Downed trees
 - 5-7 trees were downed after the Dec. storm
 - Deb contacted Steve Bullek about cutting them: he was too busy so he approved two Trails Committee members to cut them
 - When they went out to cut them, they found that they had already been chainsawed (unknown person)
 - b. Closed trails
 - Two closed trails had signs and brush removed
 - Deb consulted with Dawn who said talk to the Lee PD
 - The Lee PD put up a game camera at one entrance and a Trails Committee member (under the guidance of the PD) put a game camera at the other entrance.
 - The cameras were up for a week
 - The PD said they would look at the footage and go from there
 - c. Boundary lines on Wulf tract/Morgan property/S&S property

- January 8 - Trails Committee marked the boundaries between the Wulf tract and S&S property to see if we might be able to move the bridge and link the existing bridge to the new bridge.
- We decided that we could build a bridge but would not be able to link it back to the trail - so we will rebuild the existing bridge this spring
- The owner of the Morgan property consulted with me, Dawn, and Caren Rossi about the beginning of the Wheelwright Pond trail being on her property and the fact that a No Hunting sign was placed on her property (on a tree at the beginning of the trail)
- She said that people hunt from her property onto the Town Forest because they think it's OK (as does she). There are no No Hunting signs along the boundary of Rita Lane and Durgin Preserve.
- **Suggestion 1:** have the area surveyed so the boundary lines are extremely clear between the three properties.
- **Suggestion 2:** post No Hunting signs per state regulations along Rita Lane and Durgin Preserve.
- Once the Trails Committee is sure of the boundary lines, we will move the beginning of the trail off her property onto town property

d. Bicycle data from SRPC

- User tracker in place from Oct. 22 to Nov. 3 (13 days)
- 585 total users; 17% cyclists, 83% pedestrians