

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes May 16, 2023**

**Present:** Dawn Genes (Chair), Catherine Fisher, Dave Shay, Deb Sugerman, Anne Tappan  
**Alternate member:** Laurel Cox

**Motion: to approve the Minutes of April 16 Meeting:** D. Sugerman moved to accept, C. Fisher seconded; the motion was unanimously approved by the Lee Conservation Commission (LCC).

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

- \$400 check to Barry Conservation Camp
- D. Genes ask the commission to be thinking now about expenditures for next FY (e.g. survey work)

**Education and Outreach:** C. Fisher 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.

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

- Discussed the need to catch up on missed monitoring dates for Garrity and Brady. Discussed monitoring Garrity with UNH interns June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- A. Tappan will confirm with Southeast Land Trust the date they will monitor the Ford property and mentioned they are doing aerial monitoring of Lee 5-Corners this year. She will confirm that with SELT.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Lee Lands Conservation Easement Management:**

##### **Lee Canoe Launch**

- The glossy buckthorn removal project started today at the canoe launch. Volunteers from Extreme Networks Day of Giving, along with volunteers from CC, Trails, and LRAC participated. A sincere thank you goes out to Steve Bullek for providing the 30 yard roll-off container. A. Tappan asked that thorn removing tweezers be added to the Trails Committee First-Aid kits.
- Briefly discussed the informational sign about the site being provided by LRAC.
- A. Tappan located the downstream roadside corner pin for the Lamprey River Canoe Launch property with a metal detector and suggested using it to find the missing Aldag property corner pin.

##### **Joe Ford**

- A. Tappan is working to schedule removing storm damaged trees in the field. Removal could happen later this year.

##### **Maude Jones Memorial Forest**

- The Selectboard will likely approve at its May 31 meeting a second “flute” bench to accompany an existing memorial bench. LCC has already received a check for construction of the bench.

- Discussed Trails Committee proposed flowchart, developed by Martin Thornton, to determine whether the town should approve or deny a memorial structure (bench)

### **Little River Park**

- Invasive Garlic Mustard removal work planned for May 20<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussed proposed LRP ridge trail extension to move traffic away from the eroding slope. C. Fisher thought a split rail fence to prevent traffic would provide more benefit to wildlife in the lower slope area than a trail extension would. D. Genes suggested the project be put on hold and monitor the area to see how it is used and determine where most of the problem traffic occurs. A. Tappan mentioned the Lee PD has trail cameras. D. Genes will check with Steve Bullek about his stash of split rail fencing and if he'd be willing to install, if needed.

### **UNH Stewardship Interns**

- UNH Interns will be working with the LCC for four days on various projects June 7<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>. A. Tappan will be supervising their activities, including invasive plant removal on town lands and other tasks.

### **Durgin Preserve**

- D. Genes said the recent survey indicated the boundary was outside the controversial corner piece of the abutting property and will be recorded in the deeds. Markers (metal posts) will be added to better identify the boundary line.
- The working group of C. Fisher, D. Genes, and D. Sugerman are developing a draft management plan for the site. Discussed the types of plants we should be considering for the site given climate change using Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) grant funds. Possibly hire a forester to help with that effort.
- An informational kiosk is planned for the site, exact location TBD. Lee PD suggested placing it by the "Carry in Carry Out" sign.

### **Trails Work**

- D. Sugerman reported a kiosk is planned for the Lee Library trailhead to the town forest. The Library Trustees have approved the project. Start date TBD.
- D. Sugerman made a motion to have the LCC fund \$1000 towards the construction of two bridges in the TF and one in the Maude Jones Memorial Forest by the Trails Committee volunteers. D. Shay seconded the motion. The LCC passed the motion unanimously.
- D. Sugerman reported that Martin Thornton is developing a maintenance plan for the town trails.
- There was some discussion regarding the LCC logo and final tweaks to the design. Will ask A. Gourgue to make final changes to the design and send out for comment. Discussed creating stickers that could be given out to volunteers.
- D. Genes said that the Town Administrator wrote a draft volunteer chainsaw use policy, which was not accepted by the Selectboard. The Selectboard questioned whether the town's insurance provider would consider that level of risk acceptable and would investigate it

further. L. Cox mentioned Don Quigley offered to develop a curriculum for chainsaw training.

**Zoning and Planning Board:**

- D. Genes reported that the town had received a Notice of Intent to Cut from Scott Grumbling to cut cord wood on the easement portion of the property.
- A.Tappan reported she presented LCC comments regarding vernal pools and invasive plants at the Planning Board public hearing regarding the revisions to the 2023 Site Plan Review Regulations. The PB adopted the revisions.

**Natural Resources Inventory:**

- D. Genes reported that the Strafford Regional Planning Commission has submitted a grant proposal to fund a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) for the town. Next steps are to create an advisory committee and collect public input. Brief discussion continued how the NRI may help the LCC influence zoning rules that will protect the town's natural resources into the future.

**Adjourn: 6:40 pm**

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 5pm**

Submitted

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Shay

**Lee Conservation Commission (LCC)**  
**Education/Outreach Report for Meeting of May 16, 2023**  
**Submitted by:** Catherine Fisher

**Activity since meeting of April 18, 2023**

**Articles:** Four Nature Notes posts were written and posted on the LCC Facebook (FB) page and the NeighborLee FB page: Green Mist Day, April 24; An Assassin in the Garden, May 1; Baltimore Oriole: Gorgeous Bird, Spectacular Nest; The Tiny But Beautiful Blue Green Elf Cup Mushroom.

A writeup about the Earth Day nature walk was posted on the Commission's FB page and on the NeighborLee page and appeared in the E-Crier on May 5.

A promo for the two "Garlic Mustard Pulling Parties" part of the Garlic Mustard Challenge, 2023, which will be held on May 20 and May 25 was written and appeared in the E-Crier and will be posted on the Commission's FB page and the NeighborLee FB page

**Nature Walks:**

**Earth Day Walk, Saturday, April 22, 9:30 pm.** Though the weather was cool and raw (gloves were an asset for this walk), we had a wonderful time. A multigenerational turnout of 18 participants. Along the way we looked at pipsissewa plants, stilted trees, and a massive pileated woodpecker excavation into a large white pine. At the vernal pool, participants were able to look at both wood frog and spotted salamander eggs as well as hundreds of tiny, newly-hatched wood frog tadpoles. Our return walk featured how-tos on log-turning: finding red-backed salamanders, fungi mycelia, millipedes, centipedes, and a colony of lovely, pale rust-colored ants.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Glossy Buckthorn Removal at Lamprey River Canoe Launch:** I will be participating in this event, but will also take pictures and do a write up that will appear in the E-Crier as well as our FB page and the NeighborLee FB page.

**Garlic Mustard Challenge 2023/Garlic Mustard Pulling Party May 20 and May 25:** I will be participating in these events, but will also take pictures and do a write up that will appear in the E-Crier as well as our FB page and the NeighborLee FB page.

**Lee Library:** An after school nature walk is planned for May 25.

**Bedrock Gardens (BG):** A visit to Bedrock Gardens is slated for sometime in May when we will meet with Roanne Robbins, BG educator. Mimi Winder has volunteered to participate as well, and will take part in this meeting. We will walk the grounds and plan event(s) for BG's Lee Day which will take place in August.

**Tadpole Stroll:** A walk with containers to look at some of the different tadpoles, nymphs, aquatic insects and other vernal pool invertebrates will take place.

**Monthly Report for 5/16/23 Lee CC Meeting**  
**Topic: ZBA Report**

Submitted by: Anne Tappan

Activity since last CC meeting: None

**Topic: Planning Board Report**

Activity since last CC meeting:

To view the **DRAFT 2023 Site Plan Review Regulations** go to  
[SITE PLAN REGULATIONS \(leenh.org\)](https://leenh.org)

Public Hearing 19 April 2023 to adopt revised regulations. A.Tappan presented CC comments regarding vernal pools and invasive plants, with the discussion continued at the 10 May PB meeting.

Summary of edits: “vernal pools” was added to the list of wetland types.  
Requiring removal of existing on-site invasives was not considered feasible by PB. Clarifications were made to landscaping sections.

Action Required: The update is not finalized. A. Tappan will attend PB meetings as needed.

**Topic: Glossy Buckthorn Removal at the Lamprey River Canoe Launch**

Activity since last CC meeting:

First day of the first phase of Glossy Buckthorn control at the Lamprey River Canoe Launch is 16 May. Volunteers from Extreme Networks, Day of Giving, and others will help with cutting and clearing buckthorn and covering stumps with plastic. C. Fisher will take photos for an E-Crier article. A brief recap of the day’s activity can be given at the CC meeting, time permitting.

Corner pins: Three of the four pins delineating this parcel have been located and re-marked. The location of the remaining pin will be investigated and remarked.

Action Required: This is a multi-year project, with more cutting, stump covering, and buckthorn pulling needed. Volunteer opportunities abound. A. Tappan, M. Winder, C. Fisher will keep the CC informed.

**Topic: Ford Field Winter Storm Damage**

Activity since last CC meeting:

All approvals (LCC, BOS, SELT) in place to cut winter storm damaged trees.

Action Required: DPW will conduct the cutting as their schedule allows.

**Topic: Ford South Access Lane Clearing**

Activity since last CC meeting:

The area has been cleared (4/15/23). A corner pin was possibly hit and lost.

Action Required: A. Tappan will take the metal detector to the site to look for the pin. If it is not in place, we may need to hire a surveyor.

**Topic: Garlic Mustard Challenge 2023**

Activity since last CC meeting:

Two sessions are scheduled for pulling Garlic Mustard at LRP/Mills Reserve, Saturday 20 May and Thursday 25 May. C.Fisher wrote an article for the E-Crier asking for volunteers. Anne and Mimi will provide on-site leadership for the activity. For more information see:

[The Garlic Mustard Challenge in New England | Nature Groupie](#)

Action Required: A. Tappan will visit the site to confirm the boundaries of the infestation and cut Black Locust stems if needed. LCC and LTC members are invited to assist on 5/20 and/or 5/25.

**Topic: UNH Summer Stewardship Interns)**

Activity since last CC meeting:

Newmarket and Lee CC's will be participating in the UNH Summer Stewardship Intern Program. June 15 and 16 are confirmed for Lee, plus two additional days (TBD) between June 7-14. Projects are under consideration for Maud Jones, Joe Ford, LRP/Mills, and Garrity Reserve, also possibly Town Forest. Trails members will assist in a session on stewardship aspects of trails; a related activity to be planned.

Action Required: Anne, Mimi, and Catherine will finalize activities and locations and coordinate with Newmarket CC. Lee Town Administration will be notified prior to the program.

**Treasurer's Report**

David Allan Fund Account \$2,703.08

LCC Account \$9,389.73

Total \$12,092.81

We had four transactions since our last meeting...

Reimbursement to Martin Thornton for kiosk supplies \$121.19

Uline kiosk supplies \$68.67

Reimbursement to Deb Sugerman for kiosk supplies \$7.99

Landry Surveying, LLC for surveying (final payment) \$2,000

**Social Media Report**

April 17th - May 14th

People Reached 5,402

Page Likes 4

Our most popular post was from April 17th, which was the red maples article from Catherine. It reached 1,808 people and had 42 reactions, 4 comments, and 4 shares. Great job, Catherine!

**Monitoring Schedule**

Here is what we have done and what is left to be done -

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fpOkypCDK206zasKyCY15mbzje2eSd5WfND6QU0l84/edit?usp=sharing>

This week, we have the Demeritt Hill Farm. I have sent Exequiel an email and text. Haven't heard back. Just want to make sure it is OK and if we should meet him at the store or not. Last year, we didn't meet up with him before heading out but the year before we did. Once I have confirmation, I'll shoot out a separate email to you all.

Thanks, all! :)

Amanda

**Topic: Easement Monitoring**

Activity since meeting of April 18, 2023

Easement properties monitored and by whom since last LCC meeting:

April 19 – Aldag (B. Humm, D. Shay)

April 26 – Barth and Crosby (B. Humm, C. Fisher, D. Shay)

May 3 – Jenkins and Grumbling (B. Humm, C. Fisher, D. Shay)

May 10 – Brady (postponed)

Action Required:

Reschedule date to monitor Brady property.



## Spring Trail Work Days

- Maud Jones Memorial Forest, 4.22.23
  - Seven Trails Committee members, two community volunteers
  - Total of 26 volunteer hours
  - Repainted fading blazes, cleared brush and trees remaining from storms, painted orange blazes and removed flagging on new Boulder Trail
- Town Forest, 5.6.23
  - Five Trails Committee members, seven community volunteers (two 3rd graders!)
  - Total of 27 volunteer hours
  - Repainted fading blazes, clipped brush, mounted new bridge signs, moved the trail around a large pool of water on the right side of Transfer Station trailhead, built water bar on eroded section of Roundabout Trail

## Kiosks

- Transfer Station Trailhead Kiosk, 5.12.23
  - Six Trails Committee members
  - Total of 18 volunteer hours



- I presented to the Library Trustees about the placement of the kiosk by the library. They approved placement by the library. I will present it at the May 31 BOS meeting
- I offered the old kiosks (from the TF and MJMF) to the Historical Society and the Library. They were very appreciative.
- Markers recognizing Scott and Gina Kemp for donating the lumber will be placed on all the kiosks

Lumber Donated By  
Scott and Gina Kemp  
2023

- Upcoming kiosk building
  - Safety Complex kiosk: 5.21.23
  - MJMF kiosk: 5.24.23
  - Durgin Preserve: discuss placement so I can present it at 5.31.23 BOS meeting, date TBD
  - Library kiosk: date TBD
- **ACTION:** discuss and approve placement of Durgin Preserve kiosk

### Benches

- The second bench at MJMF will be presented for approval at the 5.31.23 BOS meeting
- **MOTION:** The Conservation Commission approves allocation \$200 for the building of two benches at MJMF to be built and placed in July

### Memorial guidelines

- Based on the donation of two benches at MJMF, the Trails Committee felt it would be a good idea to have guidelines for memorial donations on conserved land
- Attached to the email is the first draft and we welcome feedback from the LCC
- **ACTION:** discuss Memorial Guidelines

### Bridges

- The bridges and bench on the River Trail at LRP withstood the flooding water. The picture below is the Little River Trail after all the rain - you can barely see the culvert bridge. After the water receded, both bridges were in great shape.



- The TC will decide bridge building dates at the 5.24.23 TC meeting.
- We will be building bridges 1 and 5 in the TF and the Esker bridge in MJMF this summer/fall (approximate cost: \$1400).
- **MOTION:** The Conservation Commission approves allocation of \$1000 for bridge building.

### Survey of Wheelwright Pond Trail Head

- The Landry survey shows that we own the land below the curve in the road where the trail head is to the Wheelwright Pond trail.
- The outcome of the survey is that we do not have to move the trail. (YAY!)

### Logo

- I would like to move ahead with the logo so that we can get T-shirts for the Trails Committee this summer.
- The TC likes the final logo and would like to have Lee or Lee, NH somewhere on it.
- **ACTION:** discuss and vote on the logo

### Budget

CATEGORY	BUDGET 22/23	ALLOCATED BY LCC	DATE ALLOCATED	SPENT AS OF 5.13.23
Trail Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$1050.00	8.31.22	\$714.79
Kiosks	\$4050.00	\$1300.00	1.17.23	\$1000.71
Maps	\$1400.00	\$1020.00	1.17.23	\$1020.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$6,950.00</b>	<b>\$3370.00</b>		<b>\$2735.50</b>

The Trails Committee is doing well staying under budget. We have two motions concerning allocations from the Conservation Commission to work on bridges and benches this spring/summer.

Thank you for your support of the Trails Committee. The Committee Members appreciate it!

Submitted by Deb Sugerman 5.14.23