

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes June 20, 2023**

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

**Alternate members:** Laurel Cox, Mark Nelson

**Emeritus:** Bill Humm

**Select Board Representative:** Scott Bugbee

**Guests:** Tobin Farwell, Silas Farwell, Farwell Engineering, Bob Fitzpatrick and Kathleen Fitzpatrick, 15 Sheppard Lane, Suzanne Petersen, Lamprey River Advisory Committee

**Motion: To approve the Minutes of May 16 Meeting:** D. Shay moved to accept, C. Fisher seconded; the motion was approved by the Lee Conservation Commission (LCC), M. Winder abstained as she was not present at the meeting.

**Motion: Election of Officers as follows:** Dawn Genes, Chair, Amanda Gourgue, Treasurer, Mimi Winder, Secretary; D. Sugerman moved to accept, C. Fisher seconded; the motion was unanimously approved by the LCC.

**Motion: To approve minutes of Site Walk at LRP, April 25.** C. Fisher moved to accept, D. Shay seconded; the motion was unanimously approved by the LCC.

**Clarification - Site walk visits if there is a quorum:** S. Bugbee, Select Board Representative, said he thought that minutes are not required if no decision is made, and he added "I defer to Denise to answer that question."

**Education and Outreach:** C. Fisher submitted via email. Report attached.

**PB/ZBA/Invasives/UNH Interns** A. Tappan submitted via email. Report attached.

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

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

**Motion: To pay American Chestnut Foundation Dues:** the same amount as last year. D. Genes moved to accept; C. Fisher seconded and the motion was unanimously approved by the LCC.

**Motion: To pay the NH Timberland Owners' Association \$100.** D. Genes moved to accept; C. Fisher seconded and the motion was unanimously approved by the LCC.

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

There was a discussion of some items in the LTC report.

**Motion: To approve "Guidelines for Memorial Structures in Lee Conservation Lands."** C. Fisher moved to accept with minor edits; D. Shay seconded and the motion was unanimously approved by the LCC.

**Motion: To allocate \$200 to the Trails Committee** for the building and placement of two Aldo Leopold benches in Maud Jones Memorial Forest. C. Fisher moved to accept; D. Shay seconded and the motion was unanimously approved by the LCC.

**Motion:** To accept the T-shirt logo design with Lee NH on the top. D. Genes moved to accept; C. Fisher seconded; the motion was unanimously approved by the LCC.

## NEW BUSINESS

**15 Sheppard Lane Variance Request:** Tobin Farwell presented a proposal for an addition at this location on Wheelwright Pond within the 100 foot shoreland conservation district setback. A site walk is scheduled for June 27 at 9am.

**LRAC proposed Streamwalk:** Suzanne Petersen presented worksheet guidelines for a proposed Streamwalk to take place on the Lamprey River and Lamprey River Tributaries. She requested input from LCC on areas of interest to the LCC that could be included on the survey form. She can be contacted with more suggestions at any time. The timeline for this work will be early spring to winter, 2024 but they will conduct some trials this summer. The work is expected to be performed mostly from Kayaks. Some LCC suggestions to be included were:

- Wild and scenic criteria should be used as a guideline
- Culverts, conditions
- Bridges and overpasses with particular attention to runoff
- Interesting wildlife observations
- Location of the area surveyed (to be on the form, perhaps with GPS coordinates)

**Old Mill Reserve Management Plan by Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS):** This proposal needs further research. It was recommended that a sub committee be formed to determine the LCC areas of responsibility. C. Fisher, A. Tappan, L. Cox, D. Genes expressed an interest in helping with this. Some action items identified are to develop a list of contractors (A. Tappan), and a list of questions for NRCS.

**Kiosk at LR Canoe Launch:** There was a brief discussion about the structure for a kiosk at this site which would not infringe on the view of the river. LRAC is working on this and has funding for this project. LCC will continue to work with LRAC to ensure that this will be done in a mutually acceptable way.

**NH Charitable Foundation grant award:** The LCC received a grant award letter on June 2, 2023. Two LCC concerns are 1) the grantor be aware that the LCC is a town commission and 2) clarification of the use of the grant money. D. Genes will contact the NHCF to address these concerns.

**Land Acknowledgement Statement:** There was a discussion of developing a Land Acknowledgement Policy similar to those in other towns (more info on this in the Trails Report). D. Sugerman suggested that a subcommittee to include members of the LCC, LTC and other community members, be formed to develop a policy.

**Town Report:** M. Winder plans to write the Annual Town report this summer and asked members to submit information to her to be included in the Town Report by **early July**. Please let her know if this will not be possible.

**LCC Calendar:** M. Winder has made some changes to the LCC Calendar spreadsheet and requested that members review this and make any suggestions they feel would be helpful going forward.

**Library Kiosk Used for Sticks:** This was tabled until the Lee librarian is back from vacation.

**Next Meeting:** D. Genes will not be able to attend the July meeting. Therefore, it was decided to skip the July meeting. The next meeting will be **August 15, 2023**.

**Adjourn: 6:11pm**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mimi Winder, Secretary

**Treasurer/Social Media Report - June 20, 2023**

**Submitted by: Amanda Gourgue**

**Treasurer's Report**

David Allan Fund Account \$2,703.08

LCC Account \$8936.57

Total \$11,639.65

We have had many transactions since our last meeting...

Barry Conservation Camp \$400

Ricci Lumber for hardware and nails \$51.16

Reimbursement to Deb Sugerman for paper, plates, and screws \$81.00

Donation: Charlotte Hitchcock for a memorial bench in Maude Jones \$100.00

Reimbursement to Deb Sugerman for paper \$21.00

**Social Media Report**

May 22nd - June 18th

People Reached 8,800

Page Visits 159

Page Likes 1

Our most popular post was from May 26th, which was one of our "happy Friday" posts. It was the meme from the National Park Service about the "bitey end" of the squirrel. It reached 5,840 people and had 108 reactions, 6 comments, and 21 shares. However, a big thank you to Catherine and Deb for doing weekly posts Monday - Wednesday. One fun stat that Facebook tracks is how fast we get back to people via messages and comments. Our responsiveness is 2 hours and 55 minutes, which is 50% faster than last month. Great job, team!

I will not be at the meeting tomorrow. I'm fighting a little bug (haven't left my couch in three days), I'm in meetings all day, and half my team is on vacation. Lovely that all my clients are off today but everyone is making up for it tomorrow...ha ha!

Thanks, all! :)

Amanda

## **Education/Outreach Report for Meeting of June 20, 2023**

**Submitted by:** Catherine Fisher

### **Activity since meeting of May 16, 2023**

**Articles Written:** Nine articles were written this month as listed below.

Nature Notes: Four Nature Note posts were written and posted on the LCC Facebook (FB) page and the NeighborLee FB page and in the Lee E-Crier: Starflowers, May 22; The Beloved Underwing Moth, Master of Disguise, Garden, May 29; One-flowered Cancer Root: A Pretty Little Thief with a Pretty Ugly Name, June 12; The Beautiful Red-spotted Purple: A Lifelong Mimic, June 19.

Tadpole Stroll Announcement: A writeup about the June 24 Tadpole Stroll nature walk appeared in the E-Crier on June 9 and June 16 and will run again on June 23. It will also be posted on our FB page and on the NeighborLee FB page. .

Garlic Mustard Pulling Parties: A combination follow-up article about the first “Garlic Mustard Pulling Party” held on May 20 and promo for the 2nd “Garlic Mustard Pulling Party,” held on May 25, both part of the Garlic Mustard Challenge, 2023, was written and posted on the Commission's FB page and the NeighborLee FB page on May 24. As a result of these advertisements, the Invasives Group had its first bona fide volunteer, Bridget McGovern, who participated in the May 25 event, and expressed interest in taking part in future work. A third morning of pulling took place on May 29, and an article describing the work done during all three sessions was posted on the LCC FB page, the NeighborLee FB page, and appeared in the June 2 E-Crier.

Easement Monitoring Articles: To give a better understanding of what goes on during easement monitoring, and in hopes of getting more folks interested in CC work, I've resumed writing weekly articles about monitoring, under the title “Adventures in Easement Monitoring:”. Two articles appeared in the past month: “Farm Ghosts of the Forest” (June 2) and “Legacy Trees” (June 14). Both were posted on the LCC and NeighborLee FB pages and appeared in the E-Crier.

### **Nature Walks:**

Lee Library: An afterschool walk was held on May 25. A group of about 15 children used plastic deli containers to dip for critters at the vernal pool. Magnifying glasses and field guides were used at the “Identification Station” to help them identify the critters they caught and learn a bit about their life history. As always for this event, the kids had a blast.

Bog Ecology Walk: As part of the events put together for the UNH Natural Resources Interns, a walk to the Town Bog took place and the special ecology of this unique habitat was discussed. The students were quite taken with our beautiful bog!

### **Upcoming Events:**

Tadpole Stroll: A walk with containers to catch and look at some of the different tadpoles, nymphs, aquatic insects and other vernal pool invertebrates will take place on Saturday, June 24 at 10:00 a.m. with a rain date on Sunday, June 25 at 10:00

Lee Library: Nature walks (date TBD) are planned as part of the Library's summer program.

Bedrock Gardens (BG): A visit to Bedrock Gardens will be held the first week of July. Roanne Robbins, BG educator, will meet with Mimi Winder and me. We will walk the grounds and plan event(s) for BG's Lee Day which will take place in August.

Lee Greeters Nature Walk, LRP: This will coincide with one of the monthly Farmer's Markets, but the date has yet to be determined.

## **Monthly Report for 6/20/23 Lee CC Meeting**

Submitted by: Anne Tappan

### **Topic: ZBA and Planning Board**

Activity since last CC meeting: Nothing to report

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

Activity since last CC meeting:

The first day of the first phase of Glossy Buckthorn control at the Lamprey River Canoe Launch was 16 May. Four volunteers from Extreme Networks Day of Giving, CC members (A. Tappan and C. Fisher), Trails members (N. Alldredge, C. Regan, and D. Regan (Trails & LRAC) cut lots of buckthorn – enough to fill a 30 yard roll-off container brought to the site by DPW. Covering stumps will be done at a later date – we ran out of time. C. Fisher took photos and wrote an E-Crier article.

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

### **Topic: Garlic Mustard Challenge 2023**

Activity since last CC meeting:

Sixteen 30-gallon trash bags of garlic mustard were removed at LRP/Mills Reserve on May 20, 25, and 29. Six volunteers participated: from the CC (A. Tappan, C. Fisher, M. Winder, and D. Sugerman), Trails (N. Alldredge), and one Lee resident. C. Fisher wrote an article for the E-Crier ahead of the event asking for volunteers, unfortunately the response was disappointing, but the one person that did respond wants to continue to help remove invasives. The 2023 data was reported to the Nature Groupie New England Garlic Mustard Challenge.

Action Required: Make plans for the 2024 Garlic Mustard Challenge.

### **Topic: UNH Summer Stewardship (Nature Groupie) Interns**

Activity since last CC meeting:

Three UNH Summer Stewardship (Nature Groupie) Interns spent four days in Lee in mid-June exploring conserved lands in Lee, discussing stewardship topics, and learning stewardship skills. They were a great group to work with.

6/7 Garrity Reserve: Interns accompanied CC members doing the annual CE monitoring for Garrity Reserve, visited adjoining CE property (former Short) with the current owner, then took a deep dive into the Garrity Reserve gravel pit to ID invasives and search for native vegetation. Great look at and listen to a male American Redstart.

6/7 LRP/Mills: Invasives removal 1) dug/pulled Japanese Barberry at the end of the trail along the shore of the Little River and 2) dug/pulled Dame's Rocket from the slope around the baseball/sheepfield.

6/12 Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary: Walked the field and discussed long-term effects of CE language on land management (tree cutting prohibitions, maintaining early successional habitat, clearing invasives). Removed Japanese knotweed along Laynes Brook and the woods road – five 30 gallon trash bags of knotweed were collected. (This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a knotweed control project at this site).

6/12 Lamprey River canoe launch: Continuation of the Glossy Buckthorn control project. Interns covered approximately 150 buckthorn stems with black plastic, which prevents sprouting and smothers the plant.

6/15 Town Forest: Trails stewardship was the topic of the day, led by Trails members M. Thornton and D. Regan. The morning started with a visit to the bog, with C. Fisher talking about this unique area. Under M. Thornton's expert guidance the interns built a kiosk for the Town Forest trailhead behind the library, followed by a walk through the TF to discuss trails stewardship issues, conduct light trail maintenance, and view the new bridges. We heard lengthy, loud vocalizations by a Winter Wren.

6/16 Maud Jones Memorial Forest: Special thanks to Don Quigley for setting up the activity and guiding the interns to conduct a timber cruise for patch cuts to improve wildlife habitat. The information collected by the interns on tree species, size, and timber potential is the first step toward a possible habitat improvement project. The cut would be done in accordance with the MJMF Tree Farm Management Plan. The data will be analyzed at the UNH Office of Woodlands.

The Interns benefitted from the many people that participated in the numerous activities: CC members (A. Tappan, C. Fisher, M. Winder, D. Shay, D Sugerman), Trails members (N. Alldredge, M. Thornton, D. Regan, C. Regan), J. Stone, and D. Quigley. Thank you!

Action Required: None. Program completed.

## Trails Committee Report to Conservation Commission 6.20.23

Submitted by Deb Sugerman, 6.17.23

### Kiosks

- Durgin Preserve kiosk built June 2, 2023 by six LTC members for a total of 18 hours.



- Final kiosk was built at the Library on June 15, 2023 by the three Nature Groupie Interns, two Conservation Commission members and four Trails Committee members for a total of 27 hours.





## **Guidelines for Memorial Structures in Lee Conservation Lands**

- Paul is revising the flow chart based on feedback.
- I will have the final chart at the meeting.
- **Motion:** To approve “Guidelines for Memorial Structures in Lee Conservation Lands.”

## **Benches in Maud Jones Memorial Forest**

- The second bench and funding was approved by the BOS
- **Motion:** To allocate \$200 to the Trails Committee for the building and placement of two Aldo Leopold benches in Maud Jones Memorial Forest.

## **Land Acknowledgement**

- I contacted Barbara Richter, the Executive Director of NHACC to ask about what other towns and Conservation Commissions are doing concerning land acknowledgements on their conserved lands. Below is what she emailed back to me.
- I recommend that we have a joint CC and LTC group consider developing a land acknowledgement statement for Lee Town Lands.

Many towns are now creating land acknowledgment statements. We recommend that you refer to Denise and Paul Pouliot of the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People for guidance on developing an acknowledgment statement. <https://www.cowasuck.org/contact.html> Indigenous NH Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/indigenousnewhampshire> offered some caution over misuse of the saying they should come with actions and not be limited to symbolic gestures.

[https://getpocket.com/explore/item/land-acknowledgments-meant-to-honor-indigenous-people-to-often-do-the-opposite-erasing-american?utm\\_source=fbsynd&utm\\_medium=social&fbclid=IwAR2eoMtxieixSbmDvO7UmX\\_SUWMzLTEAVcCk-qtDlhw\\_hXGE7Fdm8UquT4g](https://getpocket.com/explore/item/land-acknowledgments-meant-to-honor-indigenous-people-to-often-do-the-opposite-erasing-american?utm_source=fbsynd&utm_medium=social&fbclid=IwAR2eoMtxieixSbmDvO7UmX_SUWMzLTEAVcCk-qtDlhw_hXGE7Fdm8UquT4g)

Here are a few examples of what towns are doing to honor native peoples. For many years Laconia had a tall wooden statue of a Native American in one of our public parks.

After 35 years the statue rotted to the point of being a safety concern so it was taken down but there are plans to put up resin/plastic 3-D model. This article also has a picture.

[https://www.laconiadailysun.com/news/local/statue-to-be-scanned-and-recreated-with-3-d-printer/article\\_08050692-5fbf-11e9-b63e-bf718741536a.html](https://www.laconiadailysun.com/news/local/statue-to-be-scanned-and-recreated-with-3-d-printer/article_08050692-5fbf-11e9-b63e-bf718741536a.html)

Dover recently adopted a land acknowledgment this summer. More about that effort here:

<https://www.dover.nh.gov/services/online-services/news-events/news-2021/city-council-adopts-land-acknowledgment-for-dover.html>

The land acknowledgement was adopted but was revised before the vote to remove

any suggestion or recommendation on when and where the land acknowledgement should be read or posted. Not great, but it was a first step. The Council voted in favor 6-1. There was also a lot of discussion about the removal of the term “unceded” which ultimately stayed within the acknowledgement.

*“This (event/meeting) takes place at Coheco (CO-chi-co) on N’dakinna (n-DA-ki-na), now called Dover, New Hampshire, which is the unceded traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki (a-BEN-a-ki), Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples, past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land, waterways, living beings, and the Aln8bak (Al-nuh-bak), the people who have stewarded N’dakinna (n-DA-ki-na) for many millennia.”*

Recommended Resources:

<https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-ack>

## **Monthly Report for June 20. 2023 Lee CC Meeting**

Submitted by David Shay

### **Topic: Easement Monitoring**

Activity since meeting of May 16, 2023

Easement properties monitored and by whom since last LCC meeting:

May 17 – DeMeritt Hill Farm (D. Genes, C Fisher, D. Shay)

May 20 – Woodall (C. Fisher, D. Shay w/ LO Chris and Emily Woodall)

May 24 – Hutton (C. Fisher, D. Shay w/ LO John Hutton)

May 31 – Kelsey (C. Fisher, D. Shay)

June 7 – Garrity Reserve (Commissioners C. Fisher, D Shay, A. Tappan were joined by three UNH Summer Stewardship Interns, and abutting LO Jen Stone, 25 Garrity Road)

June 14 – Lee Little River and Mills Little River Park (D. Genes, C. Fisher, D. Shay, M. Winder, Chuck Cox – Lee Fair Committee)

No Action Required.

### **Easement Monitoring Scheduled for June 21 – July 12:**

June 21 – McLean and Quigley

June 28 – Stevens

July 5 – Henry

July 12 - Cox