

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes**

### **Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

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

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

**Others Present:** Don Quigley (NH Licensed Forester and Lee resident)

**Motion:** To approve the Minutes of September 19 Meeting. D. Shay moved to accept, C. Fisher seconded; the motion was approved by the Lee Conservation Commission (LCC)

**Motion:** To approve the Minutes of September 27 Easement Monitoring at 22 Cartland Road. C. Fisher moved to accept, D. Shay seconded; the motion was approved by the Lee LCC

### **Monthly Reports**

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

D. Genes shared the FY 25 Budget Request that was presented to the Advisory Budget Committee (ABC) September 21st.

**Motion:** To reimburse M. Winder \$90.34 for the purchase of a second Logger's First Aid Kit. M. Winder moved to accept; D. Sugerman seconded and the motion was approved by the LCC.

**Motion:** To reimburse D. Genes \$63.48 for T posts. M. Winder moved to accept; D. Shay seconded and the motion was approved by the LCC.

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

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

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

**ZBA/Coastal Watershed Stewardship Survey:** A. Tappan submitted via email. Report attached.

**WFCL project days/Town Tand work documentation:** M. Winder submitted via email. Report attached.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Easement Permitted Uses:** The LCC performed a site visit to 22 Cartland Road (which has an easement) to evaluate a request to host, as a business, wedding activities at this site. LCC has requested legal advice from the town lawyer and the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) was contacted as they are a secondary easement holder. LCC will consult with the Lee Agriculture Commission to ask for their opinion of this request, especially concerning agrotourism. LCC will reconnect with SPNHF to provide them with more complete information regarding this request.

### **15 Sheppard Lane Variance Request:**

**Motion:** To amend the Aug 30, letter to the ZBA concerning the 15 Sheppard Lane variance request, to remove "by unanimous decision" from the letter. D. Genes moved to accept; D. Sugerman seconded and the motion was approved by the LCC.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Timber Management on Maude Jones Memorial Forest (MJMF):** Don Quigley presented a proposal for Timber Harvest Plan at MJMF. The LCC is in favor of supporting this project and is grateful to Don for preparing this proposal. The LCC will move forward to implement this plan. It is hoped that this could be implemented this winter (2023/24) Initial outreach will include:

- Site Walk for LCC members
- Present the proposal to the Select Board
- Presentation of the plan to the community
- Community site walk

**Motion:** To accept Don Quigley's Forest Management Timber Harvest Plan Proposal. D. Shay moved to accept, C. Fisher seconded; the motion was approved by the LCC.

**Natural Resource Inventory:** D. Genes reported that the Town of Lee will be initiating a Natural Resource Inventory soon. The town received a grant for this and will use Strafford Regional Planning as the consultant. The Conservation Commission will participate in this process which includes using digital data layers to define important resources in town. D. Genes said an emphasis on protecting drinking water supplies will be of highest concern.

**ZBA Liaison:** A. Tappan will be stepping down as Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Board Liaison. M. Nelson has agreed to take over this responsibility.

**Motion:** To appoint M. Nelson as the CC ZBA and PB Liaison. D. Genes moved to accept and D. Shay seconded; the motion was approved by the LCC.

Next meeting: November 21, 2023

Adjourn: 6:40pm

Respectfully Submitted: Mimi Winder

Monthly Report - Amanda Gourgue

October 16, 2023

### **Treasurer's Report**

David Allan Fund Account \$2,703.08

LCC Account \$13,655.90

Total \$16,358.98

Transactions since last meeting...

Reimbursement to Mimi Winder for first aid kit - \$90.34

Reimbursement to Deb Sugerman for LTC banner - \$42.7

### **Social Media Report**

September 18th - October 15th

People Reached 4,700

Page Visits 259

Page Likes 3

Our most popular post was from September 18th, which was Catherine's post about milk snakes. It reached 2,623 people with 43 reactions, 10 comments, and 3 shares. YAY!

**Monthly Report for 17 OCT, 2023 Lee CC Meeting**

Submitted by David Shay

**Topic: Easement Monitoring**

**Activity since meeting of 19SEP, 2023**

Easement properties monitored and by whom:

20 SEP – Verrette (C. Fisher, M. Nelson, D. Shay, M. Winder with landowner Paul Verrette)

27 SEP – Schultz (C. Fisher, D. Genes, D. Shay, A. Tappan with landowner Kelly Perkins-Schultz)

04 OCT – Talley (C. Fisher, B. Humm, M. Nelson, D. Shay)

11OCT – Humphrey (C. Fisher, D. Shay)

**Action Required:** Ask the LCC to consider the Echo Ridge Farm (Schultz) proposal to use a portion of the easement property as a wedding venue.

**Easement Monitoring Scheduled for Winter 2024**

Perhaps monitor the Verrette easement in early 2024 while the wet areas are frozen and access to the far side of the property is less challenging.

**Trails Committee Report to Conservation Commission**  
**Submitted by Deb Sugerman**  
**October 17, 2023**

Bridge 8 at Wheelwright Pond  
September 16, 2023  
14 volunteers, 98 volunteer work hours





## Trails Project Day

October 14, 2023

12 volunteers, 38.5 volunteer hours

- Stained Little River kiosk
- Stained Bog Platform
- Placed posts at pins at Durgin Preserve along Rita Lane



Looking ahead: The Trails Committee is ready to take on some new challenges. What new trails would the CC like us to be working on?

**Lee Conservation Commission (LCC)**  
**Education/Outreach Report for Meeting of October 17, 2023**  
**Submitted by:** Catherine Fisher

**Activity since meeting of September 19, 2023**

**Articles Written:** Eight articles were written in the eight weeks since the meeting of September 19.

Easement Monitoring Articles: Four articles were written and posted on the LCC Facebook (FB) page and also appeared in the Lee E-Crier: "Sometimes It's Hard Work" (Sept 20); "Forest Management, Beaver Style" (Sept 27); "Ravines and a River" (Oct 4); ; "Stonewalls and Sycamores" (Oct. 11);

Nature Notes: Four articles were written and posted on the LCC FB page and appeared in the E-Crier. "The Caterpillar, the Wasp and the Virus" (Sept 25); "Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - Fiber Artist Extraordinaire" (Oct 2); "Bird's Nest Mushrooms" (Oct. 9); "The Fall Echo" (Oct 16)

**Events since September 19**

Lee Library: Two walks were held on October 5.

Preschool Walk: 5 adults and six children participated. Foggy weather was perfect for finding mushrooms and spiderwebs - there were plenty of both and we had a lot of fun watching the kidlets find them.

Afterschool Walk: 20 children took part. They were all very engaged and found all sorts of interesting things along the walk to the bog and then on into the woods. Lots of great questions and parents who came to pick up their children afterwards were both appreciative and enthusiastic.

Geology Walk Prep, October 9: Wally Bothner and I walked the Roundabout Trail preparatory for November's geology walk. We spent about three hours planning and walking and identified points of interest. This should be a fun and informative walk.

Seacoast Village Program, Town Forest Walk, October 12: Nineteen participants, all from the seacoast area, 8 from Lee, took part in a two hour walk through the forest and to the bog. Though this wasn't an especially long walk, we paused often. There were lots of questions about forest ecology, species, phenology, etc. Loved walking with this group. Received some very nice feedback and queries about leading walks for the AMC.

**Upcoming Events:**

Lee Library Walks, November 9 : Two walks will be held, a preschool walk at 10:30 and an afterschool walk at 4:00

Local 4H Chapter Nature Walk, Town Forest, 1:30 p.m., October 23

Geology of the Town Forest, November 4: Wally Bothner, UNH emeritus geology professor will lead a walk and talk about the geology of the Town Forest and explain the formation of those awesome ravines!

**Monthly Report for 10/17/23 Lee CC Meeting**      Submitted by: Anne Tappan

**Topic: ZBA and Planning Board**

Activity since last CC meeting:

At the 9/19/23 CC meeting T. Farwell presented a proposal for a new house on High Road (**Kustra**). A variance to Article XV, F #1, Wet Soils Conservation Zone is required to allow the septic tank and leach field to be located within 125' from wet soils. A site walk was held 9/29/23. In attendance: G. Kustra (applicant), T. Farwell (engineer), CC members A. Tappan, M. Winder, M. Nelson.

Action required: Please review the attached draft letter to the ZBA. CC needs to discuss the proposed project and make a recommendation to the ZBA. A letter based on input from the meeting will be circulated to the CC. The final version goes to C. Rossi by 10/27 to distribute to the ZBA and applicant. ZBA hearing is November 1.

Activity since last CC meeting:

A site walk was held Sept 14 to present the proposed development at 64 Concord Road, the lot adjoining the carwash and also owned by the applicant A. **Wiswell**. At the CC at 19 Sept. CC meeting, Norway Plains Engineer S. Lawler described the proposal. A. Wiswell and son (applicants) and M. Jacobs (Wetland Soil Scientist) were also present. Multiple variances are needed; of interest to the LCC include allowing structures within the 75' wet soils buffer and allowing the septic system to be within 125' from wet soils. A letter from the CC will be needed for this project (hearing date TBD). S. Lawler, Norway Plains engineer, will keep the CC updated on the proposed project and schedule.

Action required:

*I have been the liaison to the ZBA and PB since 2019. I am ready to pass this position on to another CC member(s). I will share what I have learned about process, issues, and resources. The upcoming Wiswell development is the next project requiring a letter to the ZBA. I will assist during this transition. Please consider taking on this responsibility.*

**Topic: Coastal Watershed Land Stewardship Survey, Final Interview Questions - Update**

Activity since last CC meeting:

As a follow up to the Coastal Watershed Land Stewardship Survey. A. Tappan met with Emma Tutein (UNH Coop. Ext.) for additional discussion. The initial survey went to all 48 communities along with conservation non-profits or agencies in the Great Bay watershed. Around six towns, including Lee, were contacted for additional information. "Capacity" (time, people, and funding) was identified as the biggest barrier to accomplishing stewardship goals. Determining stewardship priorities was another issue.

The purpose of the questions is to assess stewardship needs in the region, leading to the creation of a new land stewardship grant program. Through the NH Charitable Foundation's



Great Bay Watershed Fund, a generous donor has agreed to make a \$12 million investment in Great Bay and the Coastal Watershed over the next five years.

[Great Bay 2030 | Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Partnership \(preestuaries.org\)](http://preestuaries.org)

The link describes the partnership agencies, guiding principles, focus areas and more.

Action required: CC members, please check out the link to “Great Bay 2030” to learn about this ambitious collaborative partnership. Though this is early days in the creation and implementation of this grant program, let’s start thinking about possible projects. The rehabilitation of the Wheelwright Pond waterfront and trails at Durgin Park comes to mind. A. Tappan will keep the CC updated.

### **Topic: No Hunting signs**

Activity since last CC meeting:

Forty-one NH F&G compliant No Hunting Signs were purchased. Signs have been posted by CC and Trails. Twenty signs are currently available in the CC office.

Action Required: At the September meeting a motion was made and approved authorizing up to \$90 to purchase signs and waterproof labels.

The total cost of 41 signs and a package of 40 waterproof labels is \$ 75.79. A. Tappan will request reimbursement.

### **Topic: Interesting Resources**

I came across these resources recently. Might be old news to some, but seemed worth sharing.

From Nature Groupie 10/3/2023

[Manager Tip: What Works to Encourage Scooping the Poop | Nature Groupie](#)

April 11, 2021 Malin Clyde

New publication:

Managing Northeastern Forests Threatened by EAB

Available from Vermont Woodlands or NH Trees and Forest Pest Alert 10/13/23

[New Publication: Managing Northeast Forests Threatened by EAB - Vermont Woodlands Association](#)

LCC October 17, 2023 - Report  
M. Winder

- **Wadleigh Falls Canoe Launch - Project Days**

Saturday, Oct 21 and Friday Oct 27

Two project days are planned to follow up on invasive (mostly buckthorn) mitigation. I put an announcement in the eCrier to try to get some volunteers. Unfortunately, Saturday looks like rain so it might be a bust. I checked out the site with Tom Lee to determine the best approach going forward and he plans to be there on Saturday, so I hope it works out.

- **Invasive work on town land.** As we go forward with efforts to control invasive plants on town land we may from time to time place plastic “baggies” and other non organic materials on the land. I think we should have a specific procedure (dates, responsible person, etc.) identified for removal of these non organic items. Not sure how to document this.