

LEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Site Walk Minutes October 19, 2022

Present: LCC Members: D.Genes, C.Fisher, D.Shay, A.Tappan

NRCS staff: Abby Nichols, Tim Tucker

Others: Amanda and Tim Dame

Purpose: Discuss habitat management at Old Mill and Kelly Reserves with staff from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

D. Genes noted that initial management efforts focused on creation of early successional habitat. The vegetation is growing past that stage and there is no NRCS maintenance plan on file.

A. Nichols stated that on older properties management plans were not required. NRCS will work with the CC to develop a Compatible Use Agreement (CUA) habitat management plan that fits NRCS and CC objectives. NRCS may be able to provide up to 100% of projects costs.

Possible CC objectives for the property were discussed: renovate and maintain the site as early successional habitat (cut pines – drop for brush piles or mulch); control invasives (autumn olive, glossy buckthorn, multiflora rose, honeysuckle, oriental bittersweet, black locust, and phragmites); enhance wildflower diversity for insect and pollinator diversity; consider public use options (viewing area, trails).

Nearby residents, A. and T. Dame inquired about trails suitable for horse riding.

A. Nichols summarized:

1) NRCS will complete a property inventory. A map will be compiled and sent to LCC. A CUA for a 5 year plan will be developed. Project work anticipated to begin in 2023.

2) LCC to provide to NRCS a summary of objectives. LCC to identify contractors to conduct the on-site habitat work including tree cutting and invasives removal.

Submitted by: _____

Anne Tappan