

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of April 26, 2021 Special Meeting

Chair Dawn Genes opened the meeting by reading the following statement:

"As Chair of the Conservation Commission, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is meeting electronically utilizing the Zoom platform. We previously gave notice to the public of how to access this meeting using Zoom and instructions are provided on the Town of Lee's website at: www.leenh.org. If anybody has a problem with access, please call 603-234-8194. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law."

Present and with no one else present in their respective rooms:

Members: Catherine Fisher (Secretary), Dawn Genes (Chair), Amanda Gourgue (Treasurer), Bill Humm, Deb Sugerman, Anne Tappan

Alternate Member: Mimi Winder

Select Board Representative: Scott Bugbee

Technical Assistance: Caren Rossi, Planning, Zoning, and Health Administrator

UNH Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Research Proposal in Town Forest: To study how size and age of trees affects survival and development of EAB, sixty-eight white ash trees, growing in an area in the southwest section of the Town Forest will be involved in this research. The CC discussed the research protocols, including infesting 36 of the study trees with EAB eggs, applying a plant hormone, and the release of biocontrol agents. At the end of the study, the 36 infected trees and eight control trees (44 total) will be cut down and the bark peeled at the area of infestation so that the larvae are exposed; bark under the canopy of these trees will also be peeled. All EAB and biological control agents will be removed, killed and collected for analysis. Felled and debarked trees will be left on site. Because EAB is already present in the area and will certainly kill the ash trees in the study area, and because this research may further knowledge as to how to combat the spread of EAB, members of the Commission supported the proposal. A. Tappan moved to permit researchers from UNH Department of Natural Resources and the Environment to use the Lee Town Forest for research on up to 68 white ash trees, and C. Fisher seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved by members of the Commission.

Proposed Garlic Mustard Challenge, May 6, Little River Park (LRP): A. Tappan proposed hosting a volunteer event to remove a sizable patch of garlic mustard growing on the Mills/Granger line in LRP. This volunteer service project, by Extreme Networks as part of its "Day of Caring", would be held on May 6. A. Tappan, commented that removing garlic mustard, a non-native invasive species, will be a multi-year project. Having attended a class on how to conduct such an event, A. Tappan would lead the Garlic Mustard Challenge and be assisted by M. Winder. Once removed, plants will be placed in black plastic bags and then allowed to "cook" in the sun for several weeks. A. Tappan will speak to Lee Public Works Manager, Steve Bullek, to locate an out-of-the-way place for the plant-filled bags. Participating volunteers will need to fill out a volunteer form. S. Bugbee requested that the Select Board be informed of the event and asked A. Tappan to contact the Town Administrator and request that this be placed on the agenda as one of the T.A. items. A. Tappan moved to have the Commission provide funds, not to exceed \$20.00, to purchase black plastic bags for the event, and B. Humm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved by members of the Commission.

Submitted by _____

Catherine Fisher