

## **Lee Trails Committee Minutes November 29, 2023 @ 6 PM**

### **Members Present:**

- Deb Sugerman (Liaison/Chair), Martin Thornton (Secretary), Dennis Regan, Chris Regan, Kent Kasper, Greg Ewing, Leslie Chinburg

**Approval of Minutes of October 25, 2023:** Deb Sugerman moved to accept the minutes. Dennis Regan seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Reports:**

Conservation Commission (CC) Meeting: Deb Sugerman reported:

- Anne Tappan has announced she will be retiring from the Conservation Commission. She has served for over 30 years and has been a wealth of knowledge and insight for the Commission.
- Catherine organized a geology walk in the Town Forest and is planning to do another one in the spring.
- Mimi will oversee the Invasive Species program with the Conservation Commission. She is putting together a presentation on the EAB (Emerald Ash Borer).
- There was a Public hearing on Tuesday by Don Quigley, Tom Lee, and Anne Tappan about the benefits of the timber harvest in Maud Jones Memorial Forest. They expect the harvest to occur in February. We will probably need to do a trail clean up after that is completed.
- Our terms of office expire in 2024. Deb Sugerman will send out an email to verify if we want to serve another three year term. You can resign at any time but our charter states the terms are for three years at a time.

### **New Business**

- There have been problems at the Little River Park with vandalism on the River Trail. The sign for the end of Conservation land was spray painted. Martin Thornton was able to clean the sign. The rock at the trail intersection had profanity spray painted and the trail direction sign to the river was spray painted. Martin Thornton will look at the rock and trail sign damage and see what can be fixed. The abutter neighbor is upset with the vandalism and has posted a No Trespassing sign at the entrance to the Right of Way. That is not on Conservation land but a Town Right of Way so we were told not to worry about it. The vandalism and sign issues have been reported to Andy Robertson and the Police.
- Writing – Will be a winter project to complete. An updated status spreadsheet will be ready by Deb Sugerman for the December meeting.
- Holiday party will be at Naomi and Kevin's house. It is recommended that we come up with gifts for the Swap by shopping at the town Swap Shop. A signup sheet will be posted for potluck dishes.
- It was decided the next meeting should be moved to Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussed the Trail Tuesday postings on Facebook this month should thank the folks who have helped out the Trails Committee this year. To include: Volunteers at the builds and clean up days, Gina and Scott Kemp for wood donation, Charlotte Hitchcock for the Benches in MJMF, UNH Interns for 4 days of service, Take 5 for Dog bags, and other contributors.
- New Trails

There was a discussion on other areas in town that we could develop for trails or restoration of pre-existing trails. A map of Conserved and Town land was reviewed. We need to research the easement terms, if there is an existing management plan, and walk the area with a CC member familiar with the property to review potential uses. A spreadsheet to track the steps will be posted to the share site. Members chose sites they would review as follows:

- 5 Corners and Old Mill; On hold currently. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Conservation Commission are working together on a management plan.
- Ellis Oyster River (14); Dennis and Chris Regan. Borders the Oyster River. An Eagle Boy Scout created a trail which has not been maintained since then.
- Garrity Reserve (21); Naomi Alldredge (will verify as she was not at the meeting). Adjacent to private conserved land between it and MJMF..
- Joe Ford > easement does not allow for trails.
- James Farm (2); Kent Kasper. Small plot in the center of the development.
- Thompson Mill Rd; Greg Ewing. Small plot, former scout project that was not completed. There are the

remnants of a mill foundation.

- Rothwell; Not under consideration currently. Has a management plan but very wet property.
- Durgin Preserve; Paul McComiskey and Leslie Chinburg. Ties into the committee reviewing the use of that area of which Paul is a member.
- The CC will be approaching the SRPC to update the conserved land map.

Next meeting will be December 20, 2023 at 6 PM at the Town Offices.

Minutes submitted by: Martin Thornton

Acronyms:

CC:	Conservation Commission
DP:	Durgin Preserve, Alfred C. Durgin Preserve
LTF:	Lee Town Forest
LRP:	Little River Park
MJMF:	Maud Jones Memorial Forest
SRPC	Strafford Regional Planning Commission