

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of June 7, 2010**

### **Present:**

**Members:** Richard Babcock, Antoinette Hartgerink, Bill Humm (Chair), David Meeker, Anne Tappan, Richard Weyrick, Emeritus Member

**Ex Officio:** Laurel Cox, Land Protection and Community Development Administrator

**Visitor:** Don Quigley, Professional Forester and Lee Resident

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Minutes of meeting held on May 3, 2010, approved as written.

### **Updates and Announcements:**

**LCC Bank Balance:** The balance in the LCC account as of May 31, 2010, was \$15,446.83 composed of

LCC Funds                                 \$12,075.78

Dave Allan Fund                         \$ 3,371.05

**ZBA Activities:** A. Tappan reported that the Lee/Hartgerink request for a variance was granted. A. Hartgerink and B. Humm reported on different aspects of the Packy Campbell project at the Lee Circle.

**Lee Five Corners and Garrity Reserve Stewardship Plans:** A public information session will be held at 7:00 pm, July 27.

**Easement Monitoring:** Monitoring visits have been made to the Quigley, Lee/Hartgerink, Oyster River Reserve, and the Brady easements.

**Lamprey River Canoe Launch Site:** D. Meeker reported that the Lamprey River Advisory Committee intends to complete the canoe launch facility on the Lamprey River (just upstream from Wadleigh's Falls) during the summer. LRAC will keep LCC informed of progress in the construction at the site.

**Land Protection and Community Development:** L. Cox presented a summary of current and proposed land protection and community development activities.

### **Old Business:**

**Town Forest Management Plan:** The draft management plan prepared by Mr. Moreno was discussed and copies of the plan made available. B. Humm suggested that LCC identify particular items for clarification or change and these to be transmitted to Mr. Moreno so that they can be addressed before the public meeting planned for August. One item of discussion concerned the use of wheeled vehicles on the trails in the forest. After some discussion the consensus among the LCC was that the trails be restricted to foot traffic except for maintenance needs.

**Letter of Support for LRWA Nomination Efforts:** The question of a letter of support for the intention of the Lamprey River Watershed Association to nominate additional river areas for inclusion in the NH protection program was discussed. It was decided to reconsider the question in July when land owners will have had time to respond to their notification of the proposal by LRWA.

### **New Business:**

**Management Plan for Maud Jones Memorial Forest:** Don Quigley and D. Weyrick reported on their draft management plan for the MJMF with the goal of eliciting LCC reactions and to plan for public presentations to the Town and The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest. The Town of Lee granted a conservation easement on this 218 acre forest to SPNHF and is required to maintain it as a Certified Tree Farm. The updating of the management plan is a necessary part of the certification process. The draft management plan notes several natural features on the property including a kettle hole near the UNH sandpit off Garrity Road. For management purposes the MJMF is divided into three units, Northern, Middle, and Southern, based on soil type, forest type, and historical activity.

The overall management objectives focus on common features and overall sustainability for the three units. Among the common objectives are to: (1) maintain certification as a tree farm, (2) support community needs in a sustainable fashion, (3) protect water and wetland resources, (4) protect animal and plant species diversity, (5) create a sustainable source of forest products, and (6) provide an opportunity for low impact recreation and educational activities. The draft plan recommends that extensive “thinning” throughout the forest be replaced by the creation of “forest holes” of approximately one tree-length in diameter by group selective clearing. This alternate approach reduces the packing of the forest floor by wheeled vehicles to the selected areas rather than the forest as a whole. In this discussion it was also noted that horse logging may be appropriate in the forest.

Individual recommendations for the different units were also discussed. As the southern unit is primarily isolated by wetlands and private property making any forest harvesting difficult, the plan recommends that activity on it be limited to that needed to address undesirable features/occurrences that may develop.

The question of responsibility for the carrying out of a management plan was discussed, that is, should the MJMF continue as a Town owned forest under the direction of the Town’s Board of Selectmen or be formally designated as a “town forest” under RSA 31 and managed by LCC. B. Humm noted that the same question is also applicable to the Lee Town Forest Complex since, to his knowledge, no formal designation was ever voted on those lands. No conclusion on this last issue was reached and further consideration of the issues involved may be considered at another meeting.

It was decided that a public presentation of the plan preceded by a guided walk on the property should be scheduled for mid-August.

**Vernal Pool and Wetlands Violation on Vallee Property:** A. Tappan reported on her visit to the Vallee property, which lies between Sackett and Steppingstone Roads. There she found at least one vernal pool and, also, a very clear violation of wetland ordinances by an electric power company. She asked for support of the LCC in making a complaint to the Wetlands Board. It was agreed that she would prepare and submit a draft complaint to B. Humm and others.

**Next Meeting: July 6, 2010**

Submitted By \_\_\_\_\_  
David Meeker