

Lee Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting of November 1, 2010

Present:

Members: Laura Gund, Antoinette Hartgerink, Bill Humm (Chair), David Meeker, Tim Moody

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

Visitors: Catherine Fisher

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on October 4, 2010, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the LCC account as of Date, 2010, was \$ composed of

LCC Funds	\$
Dave Allan Fund	\$

ZBA Report: A. Hartgerink reported that there was considerable opposition by abutters to the request for a variance by Fred Schultz for the property he wishes to lease at 67 Demerritt Avenue. As a consequence the ZBA will conduct a site visit before reaching a decision on the issues. The possible impacts on Chesley Brook stemming from the Start-Box development (former Newick property) were discussed in detail and appeared to be recognized and appreciated both by the members of the ZBA and Mr. Hawes, the landowner.

Town Center Committee: T. Moody reported on the recent activities of the TCC.

Easement Monitoring: The monitoring effort for 2010 has been completed with the visits to the Aldag and Kelsey easements in October.

Shulz/Friedlander Easement Encroachment by Abutter: B. Humm is seeking a temporary solution to the problem which will give Four-on-Four, the abutter, time to adapt its activities to the actual boundaries of its property without the current 1/20 acre encroachment. Toward this end he has discussed the issue with the Town Attorney, the NH DES, and a representative of the Board of Selectmen. At this stage, such a temporary solution seems feasible and will continue to be pursued with the two landowners concerned.

American Chestnuts: B. Humm and D. Weyrick have constructed some protection for the seedlings at the Safety Complex.

Land Protection and Community Development: L. Cox presented a summary of land protection and community development activities. One item of particular interest to LCC is the availability for purchase of the former Lee Store property adjacent to the Town Hall from its current owner, Mr. Banister. A substantial portion of this property lies within the Town Bog. After considerable discussion it was decided that B. Humm would write a letter to the BOS describing the importance of this aspect of the property.

Old Business:

Lee Five Corners and Garrity Reserve: B. Humm will seek assistance in resolving the problem that now exists due to the relatively small part of the current walking trail which now lies on abutting private property.

Maud Jones Memorial Forest: A. Hartgerink reported on a conversation with Mr. John McLean in which he expressed his opposition to a formal trail network on the MJMF. He believes that some Town properties should be left in a natural state to provide that type of experience to walkers who seek it.

The Town Forest: The development of a plan for potential timber harvesting on the Forest was discussed. C. Fisher expressed the importance of keeping the Town fully informed of the possible benefits and costs of such a harvest. The possibility of combining the timber harvesting with an educational and historical component such as logging with horses was discussed. A. Hartgerink suggested that LCC should visit the various portions of the forest identified by Mr. Moreno as suitable for timber harvesting early in the spring. There was general agreement for this suggestion.

Canoe Launch Site on Lamprey River: B. Humm reported that because the granite needed for the construction has not yet been delivered, the time for completion of the project is uncertain.

Loam Pile Behind the Safety Complex: The pile has been successfully removed and the site carefully restored.

New Business:

Establishment of a Land Conservation Trust: B. Humm presented a draft of a possible article to present to the Town at Town Meeting which would establish a Land Conservation Trust to be funded with revenue from timber sales and to be used to support conservation and stewardship activities by LCC. After some discussion it was decided that any such activity should be delayed until after more is known concerning the amount of revenue that might be expected from future timber sales.

Draft Budget for LCC: B. Humm presented a draft 2011-2012 budget for LCC which is reduced 19% from the previous budget. L. Gund moved and A. Hartgerink seconded the motion:

“The draft budget be approved as presented.”

The motion was approved unanimously.

Annual Conference of NHACC: The conference of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions is scheduled for November 6. The Association has also established an online conservation forum.

Next Meeting: December 6, 2010

Submitted By _____
David Meeker