

January 3, 2011

Lee Conservation Commission

Present: Toni Hartgerink, Anne Tappan, Bill Humm, Tim Moody, Laurel Cox, Laura Gund.

Guests present were David Shay and Catherine Fisher.

Minutes from December 6, 2010 were accepted as read.

Commission members: Catherine and David are not officially alternate members as yet. There is a vacancy, but Bill will go to the selectmen in March with a recommendation for them to be on the Commission. By waiting until March they will start a new year rather than fill the existing vacancy, for a few months. He will recommend David and Catherine at that time.

Committee reports: There were no committee reports at this time other than a report from Laurel on the Bannister property. Bill wrote the selectmen stating that we had an interest in this property and felt that there should be an appraisal on it. The Heritage Commission and the Town Center Committee have also expressed interest in the Town acquiring the Bannister property.

Campbell Crossing: Regarding the DES plan for the revised proposal, there has been no Permit by Notification application for a culvert, as had been expected. DES has issued the permit for the revised wetlands proposal for the site.

Brady Easement: There is an ongoing tentative arrangement for a hay shed to be built on skids. The SPNHS felt this sounded workable, but was it taxable? One of our assessors suggested it should be moved annually and if not being used, it should be taken apart. "What would a buyer be willing to pay for such a hay shed?" It wouldn't be there, therefore it would not be for sale. The Brady's have said they do plan to move it. It could be a simple agreement with the Brady's that "such a hay shed on skids would be moved annually." If the property changes hands, it will be removed. We will need a letter from Bill Tanguay, as well as signatures of the Selectmen.

L5CR: Bill Humm and Dick Weyrick have looked at the proposed trail and where it would cross private property. They marked out points that would be agreeable for exchange. Dick W. thought it would be no more than 1/3 - 4/10 of an acre. A lot line adjustment should be fairly simple: a survey will be done, a meeting with the Dembowitz' and Dick W., Bill H. and Laurel, to see if they Dembowitz' are interested. If so, we would acquire this small bit of land and deal with it as a lot line adjustment.

Maud Jones: Next steps – Dick W. and Don Quigley will meet tomorrow (Jan. 4) to make plans on how to proceed. Check with Don about what type of funds might be expected if we did some harvesting in the forest.

Town Forest: The selectmen suggested giving a brief presentation, at Town Meeting, about the management plan and where the plan is available. The document will be available at the Library and there have already been public meetings. Who will present? Dick Weyrick?

Land Acquisition Capital Reserve: The amount of the balance in this fund is unavailable at this time. We will have a warrant article requesting \$25,000 for this fund, where it is usually \$100,000. We need to have matching funds available if any properties become available. The warrant article should be prepared by February's meeting. Following a discussion of how much to ask for in the article, it was decided to keep it at \$25,000.

Expendable Trust Fund: Discussed having a warrant article for an expendable trust fund, to be funded by the proceeds from timber harvest. The voters will want an idea of the amount that could be expected from a timber harvest. At this point, all we could indicate would be that it is likely to be a modest amount. When questioned whether it should be written so the monies go into the LCC account, Bill said the trust fund would specifically target land stewardship and be expendable so LCC could determine what to spend it on. There would be no funds until a harvest has been completed. This fund would eventually help to insure that land we've protected is cared for appropriately.

Conservation/Agriculture newsletter: Laurel needs articles by the end of the month. LCC could have an article explaining the warrant articles as well as the Town Forest management plan. Catherine is willing to do an article telling about her many trips to the Town Forest with students from Mast Way School. Anne will do a natural history article; Dick W. will be asked to do the one on Town Forest management and Bill will explain the trust fund in a newsletter article.

Lamprey River symposium at UNH on Friday.

NH Conservation Commission and Strafford River Conservancy: Both memberships are due for renewal. Laura moved that we renew both memberships, Tim Moody seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dick Wellington: A motion was made by Laura that the Conservation Commission send \$100 to My Friends Place in Dover, in memory of Dick Wellington, former selectman for many years, who recently passed away. Tim Moody seconded and it was passed.

Next meeting February 7th.

Minutes submitted by Anne Tappan and Laura Gund