

Lee Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting of April 4, 2011

Present:

Members: Richard Babcock, Laura Gund, Antoinette Hartgerink, Bill Humm (Chair), David Meeker, Tim Moody, Anne Tappan, Richard Weyrick, Emeritus Member

Alternate Members: Catherine Fisher, David Shay

Visitors: John Hutton, Coppal House Farm, S. Conrad Weesner, and Abby C. Box, 72 Lee Hook Road.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on February 15, 2011, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the LCC account as of March 31, 2011, was \$15,825.59 composed of

LCC Funds \$12,427.08

Dave Allan Fund \$ 3,398.51

Campbell Property at Lee Traffic Circle: A. Hartgerink reported that Mr. Mark Lopez purchased “Campbell Corner” and is expected to build a “Dollar Store” on the property. It was suggested that she contact the surveyors for the project to seek more details on the construction and its proposed schedule.

Barry Conservation Camp: L. Gund has been informed that the Camp will be open this summer. She will publicize the opportunity for the Town’s young people to attend by scholarship.

Old Business:

Review of Town Meeting: The Commission discussed in detail the events of the recent Town Meeting and their implications for activities or actions which LCC might propose in the future. C. Fisher stated she felt that the Town’s forest areas and conservation lands are neither used nor appreciated as they deserve by many in the Town. She suggested that LCC organize and conduct a series of walks in the Town Forest that focus on different seasonal aspects of the plants and wildlife of the Forest. The following discussion expressed great support for such activities. In particular, C. Fisher and A. Tappan will organize a “Frog Walk” in the Forest within the next two weeks once the wood frogs become active.

New Business:

Coppal House Farm Easement: Mr. Hutton seeks to build a “high tunnel” plastic-covered greenhouse of approximately 30’x76’ (or 30’x90’) on the Lee portion of the conservation easement on his farmland. With this structure Mr. Hutton expects to extend the growing season in both the spring and fall to take advantage of less seasonal crops. The construction will not be permanent but will conform to the appearance of the existing buildings as far as possible. In as much as the proposed construction complies with all aspects of the easement agreement, LCC has no objection to the proposal. A motion to that effect was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. B. Humm will notify the Board of Selectman of this action.

Weesner Property at 72 Lee Hook Road: Mr. Weesner described his preliminary plans for an extension of living space by reconstruction and/or extension to the existing house and construction of a new septic field on his property. The problem is that the lot is small (approximately 1 acre) and the existing house lies within the 75’ wetlands setback region as well as the 100’ Shoreland Conservation District along the Lamprey River and therefore any construction requires permission by the ZBA. It was agreed that LCC would visit the site as soon as Mr. Weesner could have a soil scientist locate and mark any wetland areas within the proposed construction area and would attempt to have an advisory letter for the ZBA at their meeting on April 27, 2011.

Conservation Lands Stewardship Committee: B. Humm suggested that a committee of this nature might be needed and appropriate. He noted that at the present time there are a number of issues, e.g., boundary problems, trails to be built, and invasive species control, that such a committee might address and oversee. In the discussion it was suggested that non-LCC individuals, such as those with special expertise or abutters, would be valuable in these activities. R. Weyrick mentioned that lists of abutters currently exist for some of the conservation lands. A. Tappan suggested that this issue be discussed at the next meeting of LCC. In the meantime, B. Humm will develop a list of possible activities and projects on the various conservation properties for the discussion.

Next Meeting: May 2, 2011

Submitted By _____
David Meeker