

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of May 2, 2011

Present:

Members: Laura Gund, Antoinette Hartgerink, Bill Humm (Chair), David Meeker, Richard Weyrick, Emeritus Member

Alternate Members: Catherine Fisher, David Shay

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

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on April 4, 2011, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the LCC account as of April 30, 2011, was \$15,676.10 composed of

LCC Funds \$12,274.45

Dave Allan Fund \$ 3,401.65

ZBA Report: A. Hartgerink reported that the Weesner application has been continued until the next meeting of the ZBA.

Bricker Property: B. Humm has been notified that the Bricker property is now for sale and the Town has first right of refusal with the offer remaining open for sufficient time for the Town's consideration.

Easement Monitoring: L. Gund presented a schedule of monitoring visits during the month of May.

Development at Lee Traffic Circle: The NH DOT is conducting a public hearing on the redesign of the circle at the Lee Safety Complex at 7pm on May 17.

Land Protection: L. Cox presented a report on current and proposed land protection activities.

Old Business:

Barry Conservation Camp: Cole Atherton has applied for a campership to the camp. He has already enrolled in the "Hunter Education Workshop". L. Gund will check and confirm that the recent budget problems have not curtailed camp activities. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously confirmed to award a campership to Cole.

Conservation Land Stewardship: The discussion of this item was initiated by B. Humm who suggested that individual sub-committees be established for each of the major properties with the goal of engaging abutters in the care and upkeep of the property. This was discussed at length but concern was expressed for the work that would be involved with multiple sub-committees each requiring one, or more, members of LCC. A. Hartgerink suggested that if particular sub-committees were not formed, a schedule for addressing current and foreseeable deficiencies in the properties should be developed. This matter will be discussed again in a future meeting. As noted below, the current needs of three of the major Town properties were discussed.

Lee Five Corners: It has been noted that there needs to be a lot-line adjustment to place the current trail entirely on Town-owned land. L. Cox will contact the Mr. Dembowitz, the abutter, in order to discuss this issue and the possibility of a land donation to the Town while maintain a viable lot for the donors. B. Humm stated that Don Kierstead of the NRCS has suggested a joint site walk on the property to consider the feasibility of a project focused on habitat creation for the New England Cottontail and invasive species removal. B. Humm will seek to arrange such a meeting.

Maud Jones Memorial Forest: D. Weyrick suggested that the abutters of the MJMF be contacted concerning possible activities on the property. He offered to write a letter and circulate it before mailing to the abutters. He noted that at this time there are no trails that are marked adequately for public use and that this might be a suitable Boy Scout project. This subject will be discussed further at another meeting.

Town Forest: The current status of the trails was discussed. A. Hartgerink suggested that the boundary in the back of the forest should be reflagged before the original flagging deteriorates and can't be located. It was also noted that some of the boards on the bog platform have rotted and should be replaced. A. Hartgerink agreed to investigate the situation and determine the size and type of boards needing to be replaced..

New Business:

Wadleigh's Falls Canoe Launch Site: B. Humm has notified the LRAC of the need for warning signs upstream of the waterfall alerting canoeists to the danger the Falls present. Possible texts and locations for the signs were discussed. B. Humm will discuss the issues with the LRAC.

Forest Walks: A. Hartgerink reported that A. Tappan suggests that walks conducted by LCC members should not be restricted to the Town Forest and that walks on other Town-owned properties or certain easements having special features might be appropriate and of interest to the public. The Ellis Oyster River Reserve is an example of a Town-owned parcel on which a guided walk could showcase the special features of the site. It was suggested that a monitoring walk on a Saturday in June would be appropriate. D. Weyrick offered to develop a handout for such a walk. Other suggestions included another walk during the Lee Fair in September and a possible "insect walk" guided by Alan Eaton. C. Fisher suggested that much more could be done with the Town's website to highlight and introduce the features of the Town's natural environment and history. R. Weyrick said that he would try to find a report made by Alan Eaton on walks on Town-owned land and will try to update it as much as possible for this purpose.

Next Meeting: June 6, 2011

Submitted By _____
David Meeker