

Lee Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting of September 9, 2013

Present:

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

Alternate Members: Catherine Fisher

Visitors: John Brooks and Dan Geiger of Emery and Garrett Groundwater, LLC, and Oak Hill Environmental Services.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on August 5, 2013, approved with corrections.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the LCC account as of August 31, 2013, was \$8,165.91 composed of

LCC Funds \$4,855.22

Dave Allan Fund \$3,310.69

Burleigh-Demeritt Farm: L. Gund reported that UNH is not interested in a conservation easement on the property. The future of the house is still under discussion.

Cheney Property On Pinkham Road: A site walk to the bog on the property is scheduled for September 14, 8:30am, starting on the north side of Pinkham Road.

Belanger Eagle Scout Project: C. Fisher and A. Hartgerink walked a portion of the trails in the Town Forest with Wade Belanger and have proposed a loop “Red Trail” that is largely composed of existing trails. It is expected that members of the LCC will be present as the trail is marked. A small kiosk is planned for the trail head.

Easement Monitoring: In August monitoring visits were made to the Henry, Crosbie, Palmer, Humphrey, Hutton, Riverside Farm, Kelsey, McLean, Short, and Garrity Reserve easements. No violations of easement agreements were observed. Monitoring visits are planned to Little River Park (9/11), Randall/Cox (9/18), Sanborn and Stevens (9/25), Schulz-Friedlander (10/2), Verrette (10/9), Quigley and Hartgerink (10/16).

Barry Conservation Camp: Matt Nixon sent a colorful and original “Thank You” to LCC in thanks for supporting his attendance at BCC this summer.

Town Trail Policy: The Memorandum of Understanding concerning responsibility for the Town’s trails has been signed by Larry Kindberg, for the Recreation Commission, and William Humm, for the Conservation Commission, and has been approved by the Select Board. A copy of the MOU is attached to these minutes.

Lee Fair: A review meeting is scheduled for 9/17 to discuss this year’s fair. After some discussion it was agreed that LCC is much in favor of continuing the fair in the Mastway location and it much appreciates the organization and effort that went into this very successful 2013 Lee Fair.

Joe Ford Property: B. Humm reported that the legal procedures are progressing and will be completed shortly.

Recreation Commission Meeting: The Recreation Commission is holding an open meeting at the Lee Safety Complex, 7pm, September 18, so that the community can discuss the possible recreation programs and facilities of interest to the Town’s citizens.

Conservation Lands Management: Don Quigley and members of LCC conducted a public walk in **Maud Jones Memorial Forest** that generated some discussion of the proposed cutting and its expected impact on its immediate environment. The location of the walking trail in the forest has been finalized and it was decided that wheeled vehicles and dogs will be prohibited on the trail. Mr. Quigley has offered to draft a timber harvesting contract and to plan the construction of an access road off Highway 155 to permit the timber harvesting. B. Humm and D. Quigley will meet with the Select Board to inform them of recent developments and plans. The pulling of Glossy Buckthorn on **Lee Five Corners Reserve** by the Boy Scouts and LCC is scheduled for 1pm on September 21. B. Humm feels that the old barn on the property is in serious condition and should be removed. He is

actively seeking means of demolishing the structure as soon as possible. The follow-up spraying of Japanese Knotweed and other invasives by Lenny Lord continues. B. Humm and C. Fisher assisted Bio-Spray in spraying Oriental Bittersweet on the **Town Forest**. They observed considerable growth of the plants cut early in the summer and many plants were found that had escaped the earlier cutting. Several steps to address the continued existence of this “clever bugger” plant in the forest are under consideration.

NEW BUSINESS:

Water Monitoring in Lee Little River Reserve: Emery and Garrett, LLC, is developing a production well for Durham and are required by the NHDES to monitor flows in the nearby Chesley Brook. To do that they and Oak Hill Environmental Services intend to create a flow and wetlands monitoring system for the brook within the possible influence zone of the production well. As part of the monitoring system they would like to install a similar monitoring system at an independent control site. They propose to build such a system on the easement within the Little River watershed in Lee. Dan Geiger described the reasoning behind this choice of control site. They believe that the monitoring site and proposed control site have similar vegetation, watershed areas, and soil types. The methodology they propose includes seasonal baseline comparisons of: counts, vigor, and height of plants, wetland evaluations, wildlife use, and water temperature and flow. In order to minimize intrusion on the two sites, they will not be monitoring fish. The monitoring effort will continue for 3 years with the well expected to begin production in late 2014. They will provide annual reports to NHDES and to the Lee Conservation Commission. After some discussion the Commission found that it had no objection to the monitoring project so long as it is kept informed of the details and progress at the site as it develops.

Next Meeting: October 7, 2013

Submitted By _____
David Meeker