

Lee Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting of December 2, 2013

Present:

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

Alternate Members: Catherine Fisher

Visitors: Rodney Callioras, Tobin Farwell (Farwell Engineering), Laurel Cox

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on November 4, 2013, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the LCC account as of December 31, 2013, was \$6,779.19

composed of LCC Funds	\$3,463.40
Dave Allan Fund	\$3,315.79

ZBA Activity: A. Hartgerink reported that the ZBA approved the Banister project at 2 Mast Road with the proviso “so long as he is mindful of the Conservation Commission concerns”. Being unsure of what this might involve, the Commission asked A. Hartgerink to contact Caren Rossi to determine what ZBA expectations are involved with this decision and to what extent is the Commission responsible for monitoring construction activity at the site.

Belanger Eagle Scout Project: C. Fisher reported that the project has been completed. She felt that the “cutting crew” would have benefited from more supervision as some, perhaps dead, but environmentally interesting trees were victims of their chain saws. Wade Belanger was able to locate cedar posts for the kiosk. She also noted that recent high winds have created a dangerous “hang up” or “widowmaker” along the trail. She will ask the Town’s Road Agent to remove the danger.

Public Hearings: The Capital Improvement Planning Committee is holding a hearing on December 5 and the Budget Committee hearing is on December 9.

Lamprey River Flood Protection: B. Humm reported that the Strafford Regional Planning Commission is planning a series of grant supported activities to plan and prepare for flood control and for mitigation of future flood events along the Lamprey River.

Agricultural Property Easements: L. Cox reported that the Agriculture Commission has expressed interest in working with the Conservation Commission in identifying and protecting land with agricultural potential through formal easement agreements.

Conservation Lands Management: B. Humm reported that ownership of the **Joe Ford Property** has now been transferred to the Town of Lee. The Strafford Rivers Conservancy holds the conservation easement on the property and the Audubon Society has assumed an executory interest in the easement. The appropriateness of obtaining a sign for the property designating “The Joseph Ford Wildlife Sanctuary” was discussed but no decision taken.

2014 Newsletter: L. Gund reported that Erick Sawtelle of the Agricultural Commission is attempting to arrange financing of the next Agricultural and Conservation Newsletter from the various Commissions of the Town, the Select Board, Library Building Committee, and other interested parties (e.g., Lamprey River and Oyster River Watershed Associations).

OLD BUSINESS:

Kennard Property Off Steppingstone Road: B. Humm reported that he has informed the Select Board that the Conservation Commission recommends the Town purchase the Kennard property for a fee simple purchase of \$172,000 with the expectation that the prime agricultural land on the property be preserved for agricultural purposes. The Board appears to be in support of the purchase. B. Humm will contact the appropriate Town officials to determine and arrange the details of the purchase and the identification of that portion of the property to be exempt from the sale to preserve the current house and its house lot.

NEW BUSINESS:

Callioras Property at Lee Traffic Circle: Mr. Farwell presented a proposed construction project on the property which involves an estimated 2,200 sq. ft. of wetlands impact and the use of pervious pavement on the property on the east side of the Calif Highway. The project requests a variance for encroaching on the wetlands adjacent to the 9,000 sq. ft. area previously permitted for encroachment at the time of the Walgreen's construction. A site visit is scheduled for December 5 at 3pm.

Next Meeting: January 6, 2014

Submitted By _____
David Meeker