

**Lee Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting of April 7, 2014**

**Present:**

**Members:** Bill Humm (Chair), David Meeker, Anne Tappan, Richard Weyrick, Emeritus Member

**Alternate Members:** Catherine Fisher

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Minutes of meeting held on March 3, 2014, approved as written.

**Updates and Announcements:**

**LCC Bank Balance:** The balance in the Commissions account as of March 31, 2014, was \$3,916.78 composed of

LCC Funds	\$1,033.95
Dave Allan Fund	\$2,882.83

**Town Vote on Kennard Property Purchase:** The Town voted 498 “for” and 296 “against” the purchase of the property. The unexpectedly large number of voters opposing the purchase was discussed. In general it was felt that the source of the funds for the purchase, from the Tax Change Fund, was not appreciated nor well understood. B. Humm noted that before the Purchase and Sales Agreement can be completed for the property a site for a new septic field must be located so that it can be included in the house lot and excluded from the purchased area. This is scheduled for early summer.

**Reappointments:** The Select Board has approved the reappointments to the Commission of A. Tappan, T. Moody, C. Fisher, and D. Meeker.

**Conservation Lands Management:** The timber harvest at **Maud Jones Memorial Forest** is complete and the Town has received \$3,400 in stumpage from the harvest. A. Tappan suggested that the Commission schedule and conduct public visits to the harvesting area over the next several years to discuss, observe, and document the reestablishment of vegetation on the site. The NRCS and RCCD have been visiting **Old Mill Reserve** to prepare for a fall spraying program of control of invasive species under the direction of Lenny Lord of the RCCD. R. Weyrick noted that areas of Autumn Olive have been flagged on the property. He will contact RCCD in an effort to determine the reason for the flagging. There will be a Garlic Mustard Pull on Saturday, May 3, on the **Garrity Reserve**. Participants will meet at the Lee Safety Complex at 1pm for training and then remove to the reserve for the activity. R. Weyrick agreed to write an article announcing the activity for the Lee E-Crier.

**Barry Conservation Camp:** The Commission agreed to award camperships this year to both Quinn Griffin and Colleen Heath. The Commission thanks Mark Jacobs for his contribution of \$100 in support of the camperships.

**Woodcock Viewing Event:** C. Fisher and A. Tappan propose to hold a “woodcock viewing”. They visited Little River Park, Lee Five Corners, and the Old Mill Reserve and found a great deal of woodcock activity. They will agree on a location and time for the event sometime in the coming month and announce it to the public. They will also invite the Recreation Commission to co-sponsor the event.

**Frog Walk:** C. Fisher has agreed to lead a public Frog Walk in the Town Forest in the coming month when conditions are favorable.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Oyster River Management Plan:** In January, 2013, the Commission voted to support the development of a management plan for the Oyster River. The ORAC has now asked for

financial support for the activity. It was suggested and approved that the Commission provide \$500 from the Dave Allan Fund and \$500 from its own funds for that purpose.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**The Town's Rothwell Property:** D. Weyrick noted that the property has never been properly evaluated for public or environmental purposes. He suggested that such an assessment by Ellen Snyder could be a reasonable activity for support by a Small Grant from the Lamprey River Advisory Committee. It was agreed that he should contact Ms. Snyder to assess her availability for such a project and, if favorable, develop a proposal for submission to the LRAC.

**Public Access to Town-Owned Land:** R. Weyrick and A. Tappan noted that the public does not have an easy source of information concerning access to the various properties owned by the Town. C. Fisher felt that such information should be available on the Commission's tab on the Town's website. It was suggested that a 2013 article co-written by B. Humm and Alan Eaton would serve as an initial step toward this goal. D. Weyrick proposed to plan and lead walks to various properties during each of the summer months. B. Humm observed that such activities might conflict with the extensive and time-consuming summer monitoring of conservation easements. He and C. Fisher noted that visits to the Town's properties should be done in conjunction with the Town's Recreation and Heritage Commissions when that is appropriate. This subject will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting of the Commission.

**Next Meeting: May 5, 2014**

Submitted By \_\_\_\_\_  
David Meeker