

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of May 5, 2014**

### **Present:**

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

**Alternate Members:** Catherine Fisher, Amanda Gourgue

**Visitors:** Bob Barth, Birch Hill Road, Don Anderson, 50 Northside Road, Will Stone, Wadleigh Falls Road.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Minutes of meeting held on April 7, 2014, approved as written.

### **Updates and Announcements:**

**LCC Bank Balance:** The balance in the LCC account as of April 30, 2014, was \$2,950.32 composed of

LCC Funds	\$564.77
Dave Allan Fund	\$2,385.55

**Appointment of Amanda Gourgue:** The Select Board has approved the appointment of Amanda as an Alternate Member of the Commission.

**Frog Walk:** C. Fisher reported that approximately 15 persons joined in the walk and expressed great interest in the information provided, especially concerning the single frog available for observation. She stated that she might consider two walks next year.

**Woodcock Walk:** A. Tappan and C. Fisher reported on the walk which attracted over 30 participants. Unfortunately, the woodcocks did not do their part and none appeared. She suggested that the site could be made more attractive to the woodcock's display by removing some growth of black locust which would extend the life of the site as a woodcock singing ground. It was noted that such an action would need to be approved by the Recreation Commission. A. Tappan and C. Fisher will revisit the site and formulate a specific proposal to the Recreation Commission that will acquaint them with the needs and purpose of the proposed cutting.

**Garlic Mustard Pulling:** A. Hartgerink reported that approximately 10 people participated in the pulling of the invasive garlic mustard plants on the Garrity Reserve on May 3.

**Conservation Lands Management:** NRCS is proposing to install two kestrel boxes at the **Old Mill Reserve**. B. Humm will contact them and ask them to provide the Commission with more information on their proposed mist netting and banding on the site. C. Fisher and A. Hartgerink reported on the management plan for the **Kennard Conservation Easement** prepared as a class project by UNH students.

**Storm Water Management:** A program "Green Infrastructure to Improve Storm Water Management in Your Community" will be held 4 to 6pm on May 13 at the Epping Town Hall.

**Lee Fair:** L. Gund will again represent the Commission at the Fair Committee meetings. The Fair is scheduled for September 6 at the Mast Way field.

**Moth Night:** Siobhan Basile will conduct a field trip at dusk some evening in July. C. Fisher will help in arranging, publicizing, and conducting the activity.

**Easement Monitoring:** Monitoring visits to the Aldag (5/14), Barth and Crosbie (5/21), Jenkins (5/28), and Kelsey (6/4) easements are scheduled.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Rothwell Property:** R. Weyrick and Ellen Snyder have prepared and presented a proposal to develop a Wildlife Habitat and Land Stewardship Plan for the property to the Lamprey River Advisory Committee's (LRAC) Small Grant Program. The Commission gave B. Humm the authority to approve and sign the contract with Ellen Snyder if the proposal is funded.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Barth Easement:** Mr. Barth has received a grant from NRCS to help in building a "hoop house" on his property to be sited near an existing well. Although primarily on excluded property, the new structure

will extend over a small portion of the conservation easement. The structure will not be permanent and have no foundation. It is intended to extend the seasonal growth of vegetables for sale in local markets. Given the purpose and temporary nature of the structure the Commission had no objection to the proposal and directed B. Humm to convey this opinion to the Planning Board.

**Anderson Property:** Don Anderson expressed his appreciation to A. Hartgerink for her advice and the letter she wrote to the ZBA which he feels greatly improved the plans for his property on Wheelwright Pond. He plans to move an existing structure (of approximately 1100 sq. ft.) farther from the Pond and build a terrace on the road side of the property. A. Hartgerink will work with Mr. Anderson and Caren Rossi to express the Commission's approval of the revised plan for the project.

**Will Stone Scout Project:** Will Stone proposes to mark trails on the Maud Jones Memorial Forest and build a kiosk providing a map and other informational material on the history of the Forest and its trails with the help of Troop 154, BSA. He plans to begin the project in early summer and hopes to have it completed by August 14. After discussion of the proposal the Commission expressed its approval and looks forward to the completion of the project. A. Hartgerink recommended that cedar posts be used to support the kiosk.

**Field Trip and Celebration on the Joe Ford Easement:** The Audubon Society is scheduling the event for an evening in July. There is some concern within the Commission that the proposed activities might violate some terms of the easement agreement. B. Humm will review the easement language and confer with LCC before discussing the plans with Phil Brown of Audubon.

**Sign for Wadleigh Falls Canoe Launch Site:** B. Humm presented a draft sign which LRAC is proposing to install at the launch site upriver from Wadleigh Falls to warn canoeists of the Falls immediately downriver. After some discussion it was agreed that the word "might" should be omitted in order to strengthen the warning.

**Next Meeting: June 2, 2014**

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