

**Lee Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting of June 2, 2014**

Present:

Members: Laura Gund; Antionette Hartgerink; Bill Humm, Chair; Tim Moody; David Shay; Anne Tappan; Richard Weyrick, Emeritus Member

Alternate Members: Catherine Fisher, Amanda Gourgue

Visitors: Ellen Snyder, Ibis Wildlife Consulting; Laurel Cox, 56 Randall Road

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on May 5, 2014, approved as written.

Updates:

ZBA Report: A. Hartgerink reported that Don Anderson's proposal for building alterations on his property on Wheelwright Pond has been approved.

Easement Monitoring:

May: Monitoring visits to the Aldag, Barth, Crosbie, Jenkins and Lee/Hartgerink easements were conducted in May. No violations of easement agreements were observed.

June/July: Monitoring visits to Kelsey (6/4), Ford (6/11), Palmer (6/18), Verrette (6/25) and Talley (7/2) easements are scheduled.

Will Stone's Eagle Project: D. Weyrick reported that he and Will Stone have had several discussions regarding alternatives to treated posts for signage at Maud Jones forest. He and Will will meet on Thursday, June 5 to walk the trail and discuss placement of several small signs and the large informational sign at the trail head. A. Hartgerink noted that cedar posts (\$40/per post) are available at Selectwood in Portsmouth. B. Humm and D. Weyrick discussed having Will present his proposal at the next Select Board meeting, accompanied by D. Weyrick.

Conservation Lands Management:

Rothwell Stewardship Plan: E. Snyder gave a brief overview of the property, which is situated across from the Wadleigh Falls canoe launch and was acquired by the town in 2006. She noted that there is not much information on this property, which is fairly wet with islands of upland areas. The property is separated from Wadleigh Falls Road by a ditch. She suggested a site walk in July, after she has become more familiar with the property and has gathered information on the plants and animals found there. Various uses for the property were discussed including a trail system (boardwalk necessary due to wet nature of the property) and/or a small picnic area across from the canoe launch (bridge needed to traverse the ditch). It was noted that there is no easement on this property. L. Cox reported that the property was purchased by the town for \$85,000 and has been appraised at \$130,000; it is being held as a match for another property, so that the value of the easement can be used.

E. Snyder also noted that a follow-up to the May 3 Garlic Mustard Pull will be held on Tuesday, June 4 from 12:00-1:00 along 155A. In addition, she expressed concerns regarding Garrity Reserve, as it is full of invasives and also has an area that was used as a dumping ground for old appliances which need to be removed.

Town Forest Bridges: B. Humm reported that he'd been contacted by a resident concerned that several bridges along the Town Forest trail system are in need of repair, and that the resident offered to contribute to the costs involved in replacing them. A. Hartgerink and C. Fisher identified two bridges on the yellow trail that need to be rebuilt. A. Hartgerink will oversee the work involved in planning, design, obtaining supplies, and organizing construction, with a view to having the bridges done by the end of November.

Little River Park:

Storm water management improvements: Reporting on a site visit attended by Randy Stevens, B. Humm, T. Moody, A. Tappan, and C. Fisher, B. Humm and T. Moody noted that the town will hire an engineer to redesign the retaining pond which channels runoff from the playing field. While not much erosion has been observed, of concern are the conservation easement lands and woodcock displaying grounds - both just downslope from the pond outlet. They reported that Randy Stevens has made improvements by digging out the clay at the bottom of the pond and lining it with sand and stone, so it will likely now infiltrate better than it has. A. Tappan added that, as was observed during that site visit, raising and/or decreasing the size the pond's outflow

pipe will also be necessary. R. Stevens will keep the LCC informed of any plans for the pond made by the engineer.

Proposed black locust cutting and trail segment relocation: Pending approval from the Lee Recreation Commission, A. Tappan and C. Fisher will cut the stand of black locust growing on the slope which borders the playing fields, in order to keep the area in the early succession stage favored by woodcock for their displaying grounds. The brush from this cutting will be used to block off a reopened, segment of a snowmobile/nature trail that had been re-routed to avoid the possibility of erosion problems. Randy Stevens will mow the alternative loop of trail. The snowmobile club will be notified of these proposed changes and B. Humm and A. Tappan will attend the June 3 Recreation Commission meeting to discuss the proposal.

Bridge and Culvert: B. Humm reported that a culvert and a bridge, both part of a well-used nature trail and both used to traverse wet areas, are in considerable disrepair. The culvert is rusted and has holes and poses a serious hazard, while the bridge (just slightly further down the trail) is a flimsy and jury-rigged assortment of loose planks. He will bring the problem before the Recreation Commission at their June 3 meeting.

Monthly nature walk for seniors: In conjunction with the Senior Advisory Committee, C. Fisher will conduct nature walks on the first Saturday of each month.

Old Business:

Kennard Farm acquisition: B. Humm has emailed Ron Kennard's attorney to notify her that any questions or comments she may have regarding the draft of the purchase and sales agreement should be directed to the town attorney. Once the purchase and sales agreement is in place, a survey will be done within the two acre setback to determine the best area to locate a new septic system should one prove necessary at some point in the future. Three companies will be contacted to bid on the work.

LRAC proposed signage for Wadleigh Falls canoe launch: The change in the wording of the warning was approved by the Select Board. LRAC has not yet been notified. Given that the sign is meant to be viewed both from the road and the water, it was agreed that the dimensions proposed by LRAC (2' x4') were appropriate. It was also agreed that both the sign and its post should be made of the same material.

Joe Ford Field Trip and Celebration: B. Humm reported that Audubon has written a notice of the event in their membership material and that they've agreed to a 10-person attendance limitation. A notice about the event will be placed in the ECrier, stipulating that the first 8 people to respond will be able to participate. A neighbor to the property who had contacted L. Gund regarding restricted access to the property will be one of the ten people invited. It was also agreed that an invitation would be tendered to Bill Pearce.

A. Tappan inquired as to who has responsibility for tending to the large number of invasives on the property. B. Humm noted that the easement allows the LCC to manage for invasives.

Access information to town-owned lands: Discussion was deferred to a future meeting of the Commission.

New Business:

Noble Farm commercial park: Jim Daley has applied to the NH Department of Environmental Services for a permit for a dry hydrant to allow water to be withdrawn from the pond in emergency situations. The easement allows for the construction of a dry hydrant. T. Moody will review the proposal.

Schulz/Friedlander easement: The easement holds out two lots, and B. Humm reported that Stephen Schulz contacted him about giving up one of the lots and putting it into easement. The lot would be given as a donation and thus could be claimed as a charitable donation for tax purposes; the possibility of the Selectboard accepting a donation was discussed. There is no indication as to the size of either of the lots. Looking at the plan for the easement, B. Humm could not find a document that the easement references - only a document on proposed lot line adjustments. He will contact Caren Rossi to obtain this easement document.

Contact by developers: A brief discussion was held regarding instances where prospective developers might contact LCC members seeking pre-approval of projected plans, proposals or projects. It was agreed that such inquiries should be redirected to the appropriate channels (i.e. Planning Board, ZBA), while also underlining the fact that the LCC acts only in an advisory capacity.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 7, 2014

Submitted By _____
Catherine Fisher