

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of July 7, 2014**

**Present:**

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

**Alternate Member:** Catherine Fisher

**Visitor:** Dave Garvey, Madbury

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Minutes of meeting held on June 2, 2014, approved as written.

**Updates and Announcements:**

**LCC Bank Balance:** The balance in the Commissions account as of June 30, 2014, was \$3,384.42 composed of

LCC Funds	\$ 996.22
Dave Allan Fund	\$2,388.20

**Easement Monitoring:** During the past month monitoring visits were made to the Kelsey, Ford, Palmer, Verrette, and Talley easements. The only item of concern found on these visits is the growth of a stand of autumn olive on the un-mowed fields of the Palmer easement. There was some discussion of possible actions but no decision was reached. L. Gund will seek to determine an estimate of the costs of mowing the fields. The following monitoring visits are planned: Brady (7/9), SPNHF easements (7/15), Claridge and Mills (7/23), Blickle (7/30), and DeMeritt Hill Farm (8/6).

**Conservation Lands Management:** R. Weyrick reported that he and Will Stone presented the plans for Will's Eagle Scout Project in the **Maud Jones Memorial Forest** to the Select Board which, subsequently, approved the project. B. Humm reported that he had done some cutting of Black Locust on **Little River Park**. A. Tappan and C. Fisher will be monitoring the situation there and will organize additional cutting as conditions warrant.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Kennard Property:** There has been no progress toward the acquisition of Mr. Kennard's property. It was decided that all activity will be delayed until there is an approved sales agreement.

**Joe Ford Celebration and Field Trip:** The celebration is scheduled for July 24, 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The three involved entities (Town of Lee, Audubon, Strafford Rivers Conservancy) will each invite up to 10 guests for the event. B. Humm will invite the Select Board and inform them of the limitation on guests. There will be a notice in the Lee E-crier inviting the public to attend on a first come/first served basis.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Garvey Request for Variance:** D. Garvey plans the construction of a 3-bedroom home on the former location of a mobile home on a property on Jenkins Road. The proposed construction lies within 28' of the wetlands boundary determined by Marc Jacobs earlier in 2014. A site visit is planned for 9am on Wednesday, July 9.

**LCHIP Donation:** The Commission received a donation of \$600 from LCHIP as a contribution to costs of monitoring the easements of which they are associated.

**Update on Conserved Lands in Lee:** The Nature Conservancy has asked the Commission to update the list of conserved lands in Lee for the GRANIT database. It was agreed that B. Humm will hire L. Cox, on an hourly basis, to confirm the current list and provide the Conservancy with the requested information. In looking at a sample map provided by the Conservancy, A. Tappan noted that the legend could be misleading by confounding "public lands" with "protected lands". This issue will be discussed with the organization.

**Request to Cut Trees on Durgin Preserve:** A citizen has asked Caren Rossi if it would be possible to cut some trees in a location on the Durgin Preserve in order to "better provide a swimming experience". After some discussion it was agreed that the shoreline of the Preserve is not suitable for

extensive swimming use and, in addition, the cutting of trees along the shoreline is restricted by the Shoreland Protection Act. The question of the status of the property as a “Preserve” or “Park” arose. R. Weyrick will investigate this issue.

**Public Access to Town-Owned Property:** B. Humm reported on a 2013 update of Alan Eaton’s 2006 article entitled “Town Properties With Recreational Opportunities”. Various members of the Commission will carefully consider the current text and, if necessary, suggest alternate wording for an update to current conditions.

**Next Meeting: August 11, 2014**

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