

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of September 2, 2014

Present:

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

Alternate Members: Catherine Fisher

Visitors: Ellen Snyder, IBIS Wildlife Consulting, Casey Chalmers, Resident

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on August 11, 2014, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the LCC account as of August 31, 2014, was \$6,793.00 composed of

LCC Funds	\$4,403.62
Dave Allan Fund	\$2,389.38

Easement Monitoring: The Grumbling, Sanborn, Tuckaway and Randall, Humphrey, and James Farm easements were visited in August. No items of concern were found. Future easements are scheduled: Hutton (9/3), Riverside Farm (9/10), Fogg (9/17), Henry (9/24), MacLean and Quigley (10/1), Schulz/Friedlander (10/8), Short (10/15), and Stevens (10/22).

Conservation Lands Management: Rothwell Property: Ellen Snyder presented the main features of her work on the stewardship plan. She did not recommend any particular forestry or wildlife management activities, however, she did suggest that the property be protected by a conservation easement. R. Weyrick expressed support for this but suggested that such an action be coupled as a “match” to obtain outside support for other conservation efforts. In discussing the trails on the property she noted that access to the trail system and the associated need for parking across the highway near the LRAC canoe access site creates a potential liability problem for the Town. For this reason she does not advocate the development of additional trails on the property. She also noted that some of the existing trails begin or end on the private property of abutters and, therefore, create the need for negotiation with abutters if the trails on the property are to be publicized. She noted the presence of invasive species at some sites within the property. Ms. Snyder will present her report to the LRAC on Wednesday, September 10, 9 AM at the Meeker’s and 9:30 AM at the canoe launch site opposite the property. **Maud Jones Memorial Forest:** R. Weyrick presented a summary report of Will Stone’s Eagle Scout Project. He expressed complete satisfaction with the project plan and its fulfillment. Others concurred in this assessment. This and other recent activities will be presented as part of the Commission’s exhibit at the Lee Fair and as an article in the Lee E-crier. C. Fisher suggested that the Select Board formally thank Will for his contribution to the Town. **Little River Park:** There is a need for additional black locust removal on the park. D. Weyrick, C. Fisher, and A. Tappan will organize and lead the continued development of a woodcock display site in the park as an ongoing control project. An abandoned campsite has been found in the back of the property near the Little River. As its removal could be a considerable project, C. Fisher agreed to prepare a sign-up sheet soliciting volunteer help for the campsite cleanup at the Lee Fair. **Town Forest:** A. Hartgerink has requested boards for rebuilding trails from Ricky Stevens who suggested the boards could be stored in the Highway Department’s storage area. As further spraying of bittersweet is needed, B. Humm will contact Bio-Spray to suggest another 6 hours of spraying on the infestation. **Old Mill Reserve:** The thinning of immature white pines on the reserve by the NRCS will be delayed until spring. **James Farm:** B. Humm reported that the trail and its sign need attention. He will explore the situation with Dave Shay.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kennard Farm Acquisition: B. Humm has received an email from the Town Attorney suggesting changes in the Purchase & Sales Agreement.

Summary of Recreation Opportunities on Town Lands: D. Weyrick and A. Tappan are continuing the development of an article which will be circulated for comments when ready.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lee Town Fair: The Commission will have its usual table with displays and publications for distribution. In addition, various members will bring examples of invasive plants to prompt discussion and provide an opportunity for educating the public. R. Weyrick and C. Fisher will conduct Nature Walks in the Town Forest at 1 and 3 PM.

Fallen Tree in the Lamprey River: A property owner living on Owl Lane has informed the Commission that one of his trees has fallen into the Lamprey River and may pose a danger to canoeists or kayakers. After visiting the site B. Humm wrote a letter to NH DES informing them of the situation. After considerable discussion and consideration of various actions it was decided that the letter aforesaid was sufficient action for the Commission at this time.

Next Meeting: October 6, 2014

Submitted By _____
David Meeker