

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of November 3, 2014

Present:

Members: Laura Gund, Bill Humm (Chair), David Meeker, David Shay, Anne Tappan

Alternate Members: Catherine Fisher

Visitors: John Hutton, Coppal House Farm

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on October 6, 2014, approved with corrections.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the LCC account as of October 31, 2014, was \$7,373.03 composed of

LCC Funds	\$4,983.12
Dave Allan Fund	\$2,389.91

Easement Monitoring: Monitoring visits to the Shulz/Friedlander, Short, Garrity Reserve, Rick Stevens, Randy Stevens, Little River Reserve, and Ellis Oyster River Reserve easements were completed and no items of concern were found. Visits to Echo Ridge easement is to be scheduled by Allan Dennis and Caren Rossi. C. Fisher and A. Hartgerink will visit the Noble Farm easement.

Conservation Lands Management: B. Humm will seek to initiate Select Board recognition for Will Stone's Eagle Scout Project in the **Maud Jones Memorial Forest**. Timbers from Rick Stevens have been moved to the bridge sites in the **Town Forest** by Chuck Cox and his horse. A. Hartgerink will organize work parties to construct the new bridges.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kennard Farm Acquisition: B. Humm reported that Mr. Kennard has questions concerning the purchase agreement and is concerned about the possibility of some farming practices on the project. This situation has prompted a reconsideration of the agreement which has yet to be resolved.

Barry Conservation Camp: L. Gund reported that Colleen Heath has sent a letter thanking the Commission for her campership.

NEW BUSINESS:

Coppal House Farm: John Hutton discussed a number of issues involved in possible construction activities involving the easement on his farm. He is considering (1) replacing the present temporary "warming hut", which provides a location for guests to congregate before and after sleigh rides, by a permanent structure; (2) building a fence around the property to inhibit encroachment by deer, a fence expected to be less than 8' high; and (3) construct a fence around the farm pond, as required by his insurance policy, which will require adding some 20' to the culvert under the entrance in order to allow mechanical cultivators into the interior of the fenced area. Each of these potential activities will require detailed plans and review and approval by the easement holder. After discussion the Commission felt that these proposed actions, with the possible exception of the warming hut, appeared to be within the agriculturally related activities permitted by the terms of the easement agreement and Mr. Hutton was encouraged to present the necessary construction plans at his convenience.

Small Parcel Conservation: A land owner has expressed interest in establishing a conservation easement on a small property lying in Lee and Durham. When this possibility was presented to the Southeast Land Trust their administration did not feel that a feasible approach to an easement exists at this time. After a discussion of the value of an easement on the 9 acres lying in Lee it was decided that this property should be kept in mind but, given the current state of the Kennard property, it must have a low priority.

Emerald Ash Borer: A. Tappan reported on a meeting concerning the invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) into New Hampshire forests. Experts have ranked the invasion of these insects as a very severe problem comparable to that created by Dutch Elm Disease and Chestnut Blight. Some EAB

management zones have been established in New Hampshire and “wood quarantine” areas have been defined. Ms. Tappan suggested that we learn to recognize ash trees and carefully monitor them for the “blonding” that results from woodpeckers preying on the insect larva.

Mosquito Monitoring: B. Humm reported on his communications with a representative, Kimberly Foss, of Swamp Incorporated and Alan Eaton concerning the monitoring and testing for EEE and West Nile disease in local mosquito populations. Ms. Foss outlined a monitoring program of weekly sampling of testing for mosquito populations in the Lee Bog from August to October in 2015. A further discussion of this item will be deferred until a later meeting of the Commission.

Next Meeting: December 1, 2014

Submitted By _____
David Meeker