

Lee Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting of January 5, 2015

Present:

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

Alternate Members: Catherine Fisher

Visitors: Dorn Cox, Tuckaway Farm

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on December 1, 2014, approved with corrections.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the LCC account as of December 31, 2014, was \$7,065.79

composed of

LCC Funds \$4,674.85

Dave Allan Fund \$2,390.94

Easement Monitoring: D. Weyrick and Linda McGivern of Strafford Rivers Conservancy visited Lee Five Corners Reserve. They found that the boundary pin on the SW corner is missing and needs to be replaced as there is a possibility that there may be an encroachment of the boundary in that region. The pin needs to be replaced early in year. Ath-More Farm (Chesuncook Farm) was visited and nothing of concern was found.

Library and Community Center Committee: C. Fisher will draft a letter for B. Humm to forward to the Committee to alert them to the particular environmental concerns and educational opportunities associated with the proposed building site.

Conservation Lands Management: Dorn Cox described his experience and future plans for the management of the **Ford Easement** and the experiment testing different warm season grasses and mowing regimes for wildlife habitat and haylage. He summarized the experimental results on the property thus far into the experiment. So far they have not been able to harvest usable hay from the property but may do so in the future. A complete result of the project is available electronically and will be discussed at a future meeting of the Commission. The possibility of describing the project and management plan to the Audubon Society and/or other birding groups and inviting them to participate in monitoring avian activity on the property was discussed without action taken. NRCS is proposing to replace a failed culvert in an intermittent stream on the **Grumbling Easement** (primarily in Epping) with a stone ford.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kennard Farm Acquisition: After several meetings with the Select Board and Mr. Kennard, A. Tappan and B. Humm have developed a Purchase & Sales Agreement which has been accepted by both parties so that the hoped for purchase can be completed. Our two members are to be congratulated for their dedication to this project. A. Tappan is currently developing a stewardship plan for the property.

NEW BUSINESS:

Potential Eagle Scout Projects: Possible projects include the construction of a bridge over a stream in Little River Park (a substantial project), replacing and/or building and placing additional bat houses in the Town Forest, and building kiosks at trail heads on Town lands. B. Humm suggested that C. Fisher present these opportunities to Quinn Griffith and allow him to discuss them with the Scout Administration. It was noted that the original bat house placement arose from a Scout project of some 11 years ago. Also, should the bridge project be advanced it is important the Recreation Commission be fully informed.

Merger of Strafford Rivers Conservancy and Southeast Land Trust: The merger has been completed and the combined organization will assume responsibility for the Lee Five Corners and Joe Ford Reserves.

The Lee Crier: L. Gund solicited comments on advisability of reactivation of the hard copy version of the Lee Crier to be sent to the Town's households. There was general agreement that this would be good for the Town. A discussion of the costs of publication elicited several suggestions for obtaining sponsorship of the project.

Next Meeting: February 2, 2015

Submitted By _____
David Meeker