

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of March 2, 2015

Present:

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

Alternate Members: Catherine Fisher

Visitors: Dawn Genes, Lamprey River Watershed Association, Preston Samuels, Lamprey River Advisory Committee, Adam and Quinn Griffith, Lee, and Fred Hochgraf, BSA, Dorn Cox, Randall Farm.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on JANUARY 5, 2015, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the LCC account as of January 31, 2015, was \$7055.72 composed of

LCC Funds	\$4,664.54
Dave Allan Fund	\$2,391.18

Conservation Lands Management: It is proposed to cut some small pines on an east-facing slope on the **Old Mill Reserve**. B. Humm presented a draft letter to abutters informing them of the activity. The draft was discussed and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kennard Farm Acquisition: B. Humm reported that Mr. Kennard's responded to the latest draft of the P & S agreement with only a few minor items relating to the timing of the completion of the sale. The issues to be resolved are associated with the 2 acre lot to be removed from the easement and the associated septic field site.

NEW BUSINESS:

Management Plan for the Joe Ford Wildlife Reserve: Dorn Cox outlined the proposed management plan. A. Tappan noted that there was no discussion of the control of invasive species on the Reserve and that that issue should be kept in mind for future action.

The motion: "The Lee Conservation Commission approves the management plan for the Joe Ford Wildlife Reserve as presented." was moved by A. Tappan, seconded by L. Gund and passed unanimously.

Quinn Griffith Eagle Scout Project: Quinn proposes to repair existing bat houses and construct and install additional bat houses in the Town Forest. In addition, he intends to give public talks to inform the community of the importance of the bats to the local environment. He plans to make templates for the house construction that will permit younger Boy Scouts and 4H members to assist in building the houses. He is also considering placing additional bat houses in Little River Park. It was noted that such a project would need the approval of the Recreation Commission. Mr. Hochgraf stated that the Scout authorities prefer to have a single contact person for the beneficiaries. C. Fisher agreed to be the contact person for the Commission. In the discussion it was noted that the Commission prefers that the houses not be mounted on pressure treated posts and that placement on trees is recommended.

Canoe and Kayak Passage on Lamprey River: Dawn Genes and Preston Samuels presented their plans for opening up the Lamprey River for canoe and kayak passage from the Route 87 crossing to Wadleigh Falls. Ms. Genes presented evaluation sheets which will be used to rate the various impediments to traffic along that section of the river. The evaluation of the various obstacles is planned for the coming summer and the bulk of the clearing work will be done during the low water period.

Lamprey River Advisory Committee Small Grant Proposal: The LRAC makes grants up to \$5,000 on a competitive basis. B. Humm suggested that a campaign for control of invasive species on the Rothwell Reserve could be an appropriate topic for such a grant. The Japanese Knotweed and Norway Maples were felt to be appropriate targets for such an action. A. Hartgerink will contact Lennie Lord of the Rockingham Conservation District and discuss the possibility of his participation in the project.

Master Plan Update: The Commission has been asked to propose questions for the questionnaire to be circulated in advance of revision of the Town's Master Plan. R. Weyrick will formulate questions concerning land conservation and forward them to C. Rossi.

Frog and Woodcock Walks: C. Fisher is planning a series of 3 walks during the coming spring and summer. She expressed concern for the degree of activity around the large vernal pool and is considering possible actions which would reduce activity in the pool area. This approach was felt advisable by the Commission. She will also lead a family walk in the Town Forest on Saturday, March 7. A. Tappan and C. Fisher will lead a woodcock walk in the Little River Park in late April. The Recreation Commission will be informed of their plans and schedule.

Expired Term: B. Humm informed the Commission that Laura Gund's term will expire soon and that she has elected not to ask for reappointment. She has been on multiple committees and commissions of the Town of Lee for more than 50 years and a member of the Conservation Commission since 1991. To ease the general consternation generated by the announcement Laura stated that she would continue to supervise the awarding of the Campership to Barry Conservation Camp. The organization of the summer's monitoring schedule will need to be assumed by another member. The Commission wishes to thank Laura for her excellent and dedicated service to the Town and wish her well in her continuing service with her remaining commissions.

Next Meeting: April 6, 2015

Submitted By _____
David Meeker