

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of April 6, 2015

Present:

Members: Catherine Fisher, Antoinette Hartgerink, Bill Humm (Chair), David Meeker, David Shay, Anne Tappan, Richard Weyrick, Emeritus Member

Visitors: Sharon Meeker, Laurel Cox, and Preston Samuel of the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC), Paul Myers, 24 Layne Drive, and Peter Landry of Landry Surveying, LLC.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on March 2, 2015, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

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

LCC Funds	\$
Dave Allan Fund	\$

Appointments to Conservation Commission: Catherine Fisher has been appointed a regular member with a 3 year term and Richard Babcock is confirmed as an alternate member.

Retirement: Laura Gund has retired from the Commission. Her years of service to the Town as a member of the Commission are to be acknowledged in its Annual Report, the E-Crier, and through actions by the Select Board.

“Liberty Elm”: The Elm Research Institute is developing a “Liberty” elm tree that is resistant to Dutch Elm disease and have offered to provide a Liberty Elm to be planted at a location in the Town. They will also provide a memorial plaque commemorating the role of American elms in the early history of the nation. Possible locations for the tree were discussed.

Kennard Farm Acquisition: B. Humm reported that the parties are close to an agreement and are continuing negotiations on the remaining issues.

Conservation Lands Management: Scrub pines are to be cut soon on the **Old Mill Reserve**. B. Humm will be contacting Bio-Spray in reference to the patch of Japanese Knotweed on the **Joe Ford Wildlife Reserve**. A. Hartgerink noted that there are other infestations along Garrity Road. It was also noted that the fence on the Reserve is deteriorating.

Training for Easement Monitoring: The Stewardship Network is sponsoring a workshop on May 16 for those who are interested in learning to monitor conservation easements. The workshop is scheduled from 9am to 2pm and will begin with a class session at the Lee Safety Complex and finish with a field session on the Randy Stevens easement.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nature Walks: C. Fisher reported on the monthly Family Nature Walk she led on Saturday, April 4. Spring frog walks are to be scheduled and a woodcock walk will be held at Little River Park as soon as sufficient birds are active on the site.

NEW BUSINESS:

Variance Request at 24 Layne Drive: Mr. Myers outlined his plan for proposed construction on a 1/3 acre substandard lot which is in “grandfathered” status. He proposes construction on the existing footprint of a house built in 1973. The utilities and most of the construction must lie within the shore land conservation area and thus a variance is required. A site visit is scheduled for 10am, Wednesday, April 8.

Proposed Multi-Town Footpath Along Lamprey River: S. Meeker, P. Samuel, and L. Cox, representing the Recreation Committee of the LRAC, outlined a plan for identifying and developing an extensive footpath system within the Lamprey River corridor. The project feasibility study is supported by a \$6,000 grant from the US Park Service and will involve mapping of possible sites, consultation with local governments to develop community support, and recruitment of local participants. In particular, they seek help from the Commission in the identification of special areas of outstanding natural importance within Lee. During the discussion of the project, A. Hartgerink

noted that once such areas are identified and open to the public they may, at times, need protection from overuse. L. Cox presented a portion of the Town's master plan relating to trail systems and a summary of laws pertaining to landowners' liability when a trail on their property is open to the public.

Grant Application to LRAC: Lenny Lord has provided an estimate of the cost of eradicating plots of invasive species on the Rothwell Reserve. After discussion it was decided to apply to the LRAC Small Grant Program for a sum not to exceed \$2,000 to cover the cost of the project.

Water Testing For Arsenic and Other Substances: The Commission discussed its concern for water quality in the Town's household wells. It was decided that B. Humm will contact Seacoast Analytic Services of Lee to seek information on the cost involved in testing water samples and water supply remediation if that is found to be advisable.

Japanese Knotweed on Mast Road: There is extensive infestation of Japanese Knotweed along Mast Road west of the Rt. 155/155A intersection. As the NH DOT has recently developed a pamphlet describing "best practices" for controlling the plant, B. Humm suggested that he contact them and discuss the eradication of the plant in that section of Lee.

By-Laws of the Conservation Commission: There does not appear to exist a set of by-laws for the Commission. As by-laws would define the responsibilities and authority of the Commission, this omission could be important in order to justify actions taken by the Commission in the future. B. Humm has written a draft of by-laws and C. Fisher, A. Tappan, and D. Meeker will help him develop a final draft to be considered for adoption.

Next Meeting: May 4, 2015

Submitted By _____
David Meeker