

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of August 3, 2015

Present:

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

Visitors: Laurel Cox, Randall Farm, Brian Hotz, SPNHF, Kyle Pimental, Strafford Regional Planning Commission.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on June 6, 2015, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the LCC account as of July 31, 2015, was \$6,242.09 composed of

LCC Funds	\$2,392.72
Dave Allan Fund	\$3,849.37

Easement Monitoring: Monitoring visits to the Brady, Claridge/Mills, DeMeritt Hill Farm, Mills Little River Park, Lee Little River Reserve, and the Humphrey easements were made. No items of concern were found. Visits are planned to easements of Schulz & Friedlander (8/5), Riverside Farm (8/12), Ellis Oyster River Park (8/19), Brown/Henry (8/26), Quigley and McLean (9/2), and Talley (9/9).

Town Land Management: B. Humm summarized changes in the grant-supported spraying of invasive plants on the **Rothwell** property negotiated with the LRAC. By agreement the grant funds from LRAC will be used to spray Japanese Knotweed and other funds will be used for spraying other invasives. This change has been agreed upon by Bio-Spray management. B. Humm and C. Fisher met with the new owners of the property adjoining the **Ford Nature Preserve** to inform them of the upcoming spraying on the Town's property. B. Humm, D. Weyrick, and Bob Moynihan attempted to identify the boundary lines on the property and found that much of the knotweed lies on private property. Bio-Spray has been informed of the new owner's interest in spraying invasives on their property. D. Meeker reported on the condition of the fence along Garrity Road and found that the posts, being of treated wood, were in good condition but the boards were in very poor shape and do not warrant repair. B. Humm suggested that Jones and Beach Surveyors be informed that a group associated with Mast Way School, with approval of the Conservation Commission, is interested in having the **vernal pool in the Town Forest** included in the easement and be requested to furnish an estimate of the survey costs of such an inclusion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Fair Planning: C. Fisher reported that Dick Babcock will bring and setup his tent for the use of the Commission. In discussing the feasibility of informing the public about the proposed Goss Project (see new business below) at the Commission's display it was noted that the Select Board should be notified prior to any public discussion. B. Humm will contact SPNHF and discuss the next steps to be taken by the Commission to inform the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mapping Trails in Lee: K. Pimental outlined two projects currently underway by SRPC. The first concerns planning for a footpath along the Lamprey River Corridor supported by a grant from the National Park Service. The portion of the trail in Lee was discussed in more detail using highly detailed maps and aerial photos. A public report of the planning study's conclusion is expected in late September at the end of the grant period. The second project involves the mapping of the existing trails in the Lee Town Forest. He is impressed by the extensive network which he estimates to consist of approximately 6 miles of trails. He offered to provide the Town and its Commission with the updated trail locations in a multitude of available formats. C. Fisher requested a copy in PDF format. D. Weyrick offered to oversee an investigation into future uses of the digital file underlying the present maps.

SPNHF Goss Property Project: Brian Hotz described the proposed purchase of a large portion (195 acres) of the Goss family property lying in Lee, Madbury, and Durham and the protection of the remainder with a conservation easement. The extensive property has very important scenic, agricultural, and historic features and is currently valued at approximately \$2,000,000. Mr. Hotz described the efforts underway to develop financial support for the project from LCHIP and other agencies. He is seeking support from the Town as some 45 acres of the property lie in Lee. Aspects of the project were discussed in a preliminary fashion.

Vice Chair Appointment: B. Humm stated that he will be away from the country August 25 to September 18 and that there needs to be a vice-chair to serve during that time as a contact for the Commission. Following many minutes of complete silence and averted eyes, D. Meeker reluctantly agreed to serve in that position for the stated time period and A. Hartgerink agreed to be responsible for the monitoring notebooks also during that period.

Invasive Plants Near the Library: A. Tappan has informed the Library administration of the presence of several invasive plants around the picnic table near the Lee Bog. After some discussion it was agreed that she would provide the Library Director with more specific information and suggest that she ask the Town Administer to arrange for its removal.

Next Meeting: August 31, 2015

Submitted By _____
David Meeker