

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of August 31, 2015

Present: Catherine Fisher; Antoinette Hartgerink; David Meeker (Vice Chair); Anne Tappan; Richard Weyrick, Emeritus Member

Visitors: Tom Hooper, SIX03; Ute and Heiner Luxem, 28 Northside Road; Sharon Meeker, Lamprey River Advisory Committee

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on August 3, 2015 approved as written.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Easement Monitoring: Monitoring visits to Schulz/Friedlander, Riverside Farm, Quigley, McLean, Henry, and Ellis Oyster River Park easements. The sole item of concern is the Fore on Four encroachment on the Schulz Friedlander easement which needs to be addressed: the five year period whereby Fore on Four has been allowed to use this piece of the easement is nearly at an end; one corner pin between the two properties was not found and this boundary needs to be resurveyed to locate the pin.

LCC members who monitored the Henry easement came upon a truly bountiful crop of hazel nuts growing along the power line ROW, and D. Weyrick brought a sample for show and tell.

Upcoming visits are scheduled for Talley, Noble Farm, Fogg, and Hutton.

Autumn Olive Removal at Lee Library: A. Tappan reported that approval for removing of the autumn olive was given by the Library Director, who, after getting approval from the Library Trustees, contacted Town Administrator who also approved. Randy Stevens subsequently removed the shrub. A. Tappan also reported removing young bittersweet and burning bush plants found growing near the bog; she noted that another autumn olive is growing on the nearby Banister property.

SPNHF Goss Property Project: A. Tappan reported that Brian Holtz came before the Select Board on August 31 and gave an overview of the project, outlining the property's many recreational opportunities. He indicated that funding for the project will be sought from many sources, and that Durham, Lee and Madbury may be asked to add conservation easements on the portions of the property that fall within their borders. He has plans to set up a tri-town tour for Conservation Commissions and town representatives to view the property. A SPNHF member will set up an information display with posters and hand-outs at the Town Fair.

CONSERVATION LANDS MANAGEMENT:

Joe Ford Nature Reserve:

Knotweed Treatment: Dennis Hayward of Bio spray has requested a permit from the State to treat the Japanese Knotweed growing in the right of way on the property, but hasn't yet heard back. Should it take much longer for a permit to be granted, he suggests that he spray the area outside the right of way and then come back and treat the remainder after the permit comes through.

Warm-Season Grass Project: A. Tappan reported that she and Bill Humm attended the program hosted by NRCS and Dorn Cox. About 10 people attended the event, including NRCS representatives and several graziers. The project is in its 3rd year and the warm season native grasses have, with the exception of Gama grass, grown beautifully. In order to maintain this area as grassland, mowing is necessary, but management by rotational grazing was discussed as a possible alternative. This method allows animals to graze for a set time - until a certain height is achieved -resulting in a significant amount of remaining stubble which allows the grasses to regrow and improves their quality. Given that the property is too small to support a significant population of grassland bird species, A. Tappan feels that this management method is worth considering. Any agricultural management plan would need to be written for consideration by SELT, Audubon and the Town of Lee.

Rothwell Reserve: As soon as the permit is signed by an LCC member, Bio spray will treat the knotweed growing on the reserve, likely in the first or second week of September.

OLD BUSINESS

Lamprey River Inter-Town Trails: Sharon Meeker reported that LRAC has been awarded a \$6000.00 National Park Service grant to study the feasibility of creating a footpath running the length of the river. Meetings to discuss both the benefits and problems of such a footpath will be held in each of the towns through which the Lamprey runs, with the meeting in Lee scheduled for September 17 at 7:00 pm at the Safety Complex.

Town Fair: As Bill Humm will be away during the fair, there will be no way to access materials stored in the Town Hall annex on fair day. C. Fisher suggested that any pamphlets, maps, tables, etc. be collected during weekday office hours and stored at her home, which is just a short distance from the Mast Way baseball field where the fair is to be held. As she and A. Hartgerink will be in the annex to collect materials for easement monitoring the Wednesday before the fair, she suggested the two of them gather the fair materials at that time. With the success of last year's invasive species display, it was agreed that similar display would be useful this year; C. Fisher offered to coordinate who would bring what.

NEW BUSINESS

Luxem Property on Wheelwright Pond: Heiner Luxem outlined the proposed construction of a garage on their lot. The garage would be built outside of the 100 foot wetland setback. The proposal goes before the ZBA on the 16th. A. Hartgerink will check with Caren Rossi to determine if there are other concerns that would require a site walk.

Proposed Town Forest 5K Race: Tom Hooper, of the athletic club SIX03, proposed holding a 5K fund-raising race in the Town Forest sometime in the fall or perhaps in 2016. The race would have perhaps 100-200 participants and would be paired with a pancake breakfast prepared by the Fire Department. Funds raised by the race could be used to help with trail maintenance, signs, etc. Mr. Hooper discussed the difficulty he'd had navigating the trails system. D. Weyrick offered to accompany Mr. Hooper on a Town Forest walk with an eye to improving the trails map.

Next Meeting: October 5, 2015

Submitted by _____
Catherine Fisher