

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of October 5, 2015

Present: Catherine Fisher, Antoinette Hartgerink, Bill Humm (Chair), David Meeker, David Shay, Anne Tappan

Alternate Member: Amanda Gourgue

Visitors: L. Cox, Tuckaway Farm, Gordon Merrick, Next Generation Climate, Martha Twombly, SPNHF

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of the September meeting, held on August 31, 2015, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The (approximate) balance in the LCC account as of September 31, 2015, was \$11,392.09 composed of

LCC Funds	\$8,999.49
Dave Allan Fund	\$2,392.60

Thanks from Bill: B. Humm expressed his thanks to the Commission for being able to fulfill its responsibilities during his sojourn south of the Equator.

Easement Monitoring: Monitoring visits to the Talley, Noble Farm, and Fogg easements were made. Some construction debris was found on the **Fogg** easement that needs to be removed. C. Fisher noted that there has been extensive removal of invasive species on the **Noble Farm** property. B. Humm and D. Weyrick visited the Lee Five Corners Reserve and found some fencing by abutters that needs to be removed. The owners have been notified of this situation. The negotiated 5 year agreement concerning the encroachment on the **Schulz/Friedlander Easement** and the neighboring Fore-on-Four Driving Range is expiring and the situation needs to be resolved. The Fore-on-Four owner seeks to extend the agreement while the easement owner has proposed another option. B. Humm wrote to the parties expressing the Commission's concern and proposing either 1) an extension of the current agreement or 2) following the current agreement's plan to end the encroachment by relocating and marking the boundary between the properties. B. Humm, C. Fisher, and A. Hartgerink will visit the property and seek to locate the lost boundary marker marking the encroachment. The spraying of invasive plants on the **Rothwell Reserve** is waiting on permission from NH DES and will be completed as soon as possible. Spraying of Japanese Knotweed on the **Joe Ford Nature Reserve** is complete. A group of Garrity Road residents have offered to repair the fence along the road. After some discussion it was decided to accept the offer of repair and to consider other alternatives in the future. A. Tappan noted that signage on the Reserve does not fully conform to the easement agreement. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Conservation Lands Management: C. Fisher reported that the work of Bio-Spray on the **Town Forest** is complete and that she is very pleased with the result. She will also contact Jones and Beach Engineering concerning the possible incorporation of the vernal pool into the easement area.

Town Fair Review: A. Tappan presented a \$50 donation to the Dave Allan Fund resulting from the sale of a few remaining items with the FLOS logo. The intention is to contribute these funds in support of the Goss project (see below). Plans for the 2016 fair were discussed including the possibility of scheduling more activities for younger children.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Report: The annual report for FY 2015 is due at the end of the month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Multi-Town Conservation Easement on Goss Property: Martha Twombly, Capital Campaign Specialist of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), presented initial details of the preservation project on the property of the Goss family with parts lying in Durham, Lee, and Madbury. She outlined specific benefits of the project to the Town and the more general community. Most of the property is planned for purchase by SPNHF while a conservation

easement is proposed for agricultural lands adjacent to the homestead. She is requesting that Lee support an easement on the Lee portion of the property and have the primary interest in the easement. She asked for an outline of the steps involved in the Town's possible financial participation in the project so that SPNHF's public announcements to the voters can be properly formulated. B. Humm described the overall process and the possible complications involved.

Commission Budget for FY 2016: The draft budget request for \$5,300 was approved unanimously after a motion by D. Meeker was seconded by C. Fisher.

Land-Use Change Tax: As a possible change in the current policy for dividing the receipts from land-use change is under discussion, A. Tappan reviewed the history of the Town's version of the fund and its establishment by the voters of the Town.

Next Meeting: November 2, 2015

Submitted By _____
David Meeker