

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of May 2, 2016

Present:

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

Ex Officio: Scott Bugbee, Representative from Select Board

Visitors: Mark Davis, Pawtuckaway Nursery, Jeremy Lougee, Southeast Land Trust (SELT)

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on April 4, 2016, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the LCC account as of April 30, 2016, was \$9,749.79 composed of

LCC Funds	\$7,355.71
Dave Allan Fund	\$2,394.08

Easement Monitoring: The Kelsey, Short, and Garrity Reserve easements were visited. The only item of concern was a boundary problem on the Garrity Reserve which R. Weyrick will seek to address by a phone call. Visits are scheduled for Aldag easement (May 4), Barth and Crosbie easements (May 11), Jenkins easement (May 18), and Sanborn easement (May 25).

Nature Walks: C. Fisher reported on the 3 **Frog Walks** she conducted. All were well attended with 28 adults and children participating in the last walk. She and Scottie Robinson, Lee Library, are planning four **Nature Walks** for children and families. The walks are co-sponsored by the Commission and the Lee Library and will be announced in the E-Crier. Afternoon and evening walks are planned in July. A. Tappan reported that two evening **Woodcock Viewings**, April 22 and 23, resulted in fine performances by the birds which were appreciated by some 9 human participants.

New England Cottontail Presentation: B. Humm reported that the presentation by Haley Andreozzi was very effective and was attended by some 25 individuals.

Tibbits Road: A. Tappan stated that the road is not currently passable and the Select Board has asked Randy Stevens to oversee UNH workers as they re-contour the filled area and remove brush to allow foot traffic passage. The Commission was asked to participate. R. Weyrick volunteered to contact Mr. Stevens and assist him in the project.

Conservation Land Management: R. Weyrick presented a draft of the update to the **Maud Jones Memorial Forest** management plan. C. Fisher remarked that many visitors to the Town Forest enter through the Church parking lot and are in need of reminding of the Town's "dog poop policy". She suggested that a kiosk at the trail entry point might be a solution to this problem.

Walk on Powder Major Farm: SPNHF is holding a public walk on the Farm to introduce the public to their major conservation project which has portions in Lee, Durham, and Madbury.

LCHIP Check: LCHIP provided \$1,000 in support of the Commission's monitoring activities.

SELT Membership: SELT is asking for a \$200 annual membership fee. D. Meeker will check the amount of previous fees for a discussion at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commission Website: A. Gourgue reported that she now knows the name of the person who has done the Barrington Conservation Commission website and will discuss their procedures for application to our website. As maps of conservation lands are possible additions to the site, B. Humm stated that he had discussed this issue with Matt Sullivan of Strafford Regional Planning.

NEW BUSINESS:

NE Cottontail and Woodcock on Little River Park: A. Tappan noted that there is funding available for habitat restoration for both the cottontail and woodcock habitats. She asked, and was granted, approval of the Commission, to seek further information concerning the possibility of support for restoration work at Little River Park.

Pawtuckaway Nursery: Mark Davis seeks to construct a new, 34' x 100', greenhouse on an upland site that cannot meet the setback from existing wetlands. He feels that the greenhouse is needed to respond to the variable spring temperatures which create problems for uncovered plantings. He feels that the site is elevated from the wetlands and hopes that construction is possible. He does fertilize but only the minimum he feels necessary. A site visit is planned for Tuesday, May 24, at 9am.

Kennard Property: Jeremy Lougee informed the Commission that NRCS has tentatively approved funding for a Wetland Reserve Easement on the Ron Kennard property. Mr. Kennard proposes that SELT be responsible for the future management of the easement. SELT is considering two options with different costs: 1) a minimal program with no active management and no formal public access at no additional cost and 2) an actively managed site with a public access trail system and public parking with an additional estimated cost of \$21,583 for the construction of the trails and parking facilities. SELT is asking for a contribution from Lee to support the second alternative. This option will be discussed at a later meeting of the Commission.

ORMS Servicepalooza: Oyster River Middle School is planning a "service activity" on May 2, 8:30 to 11:30. Removal of invasive plant species on the James Farm Easement was judged to be the best option for the students.

Nomination of Officers: A. Tappan nominated Bill Humm for Commission Chair. D. Shay seconded the nomination and the Commission voted unanimously for the nomination. A. Tappan nominated David Meeker for Secretary/Treasurer. D. Shay seconded the nomination and the Commission voted unanimously for the nomination.

Next Meeting: June 6, 2016

David Meeker