

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of June 6, 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: John and Carol Hutton, Coppal House Farm, Travis Genatossio, Revision Energy, Liz Durfee, Strafford Regional Planning, Fred Wolff, High Road, and Laurel Cox, Randall Farm.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on May 2, 2016, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the LCC account as of May 31, 2016, was \$10,575.39 composed of

LCC Funds \$8,181.15

Dave Allan Fund \$2,394.24

Easement Monitoring: The Aldag, Barth, Crosbie, Jenkins, Sanborn, Lee/Hartgerink, and Grumbling easements were visited without finding anything of concern. Visits are planned for the Verette (6/8), Brady (6/15), Hutton (6/22) and Chrisholm (6/29) easements. B. Humm reported that a representative of SELT wants to walk the boundary of the Joe Ford Wildlife Preserve and asked if a representative of the Commission would accompany him. R. Weyrick will contact SELT and schedule the visit, if possible.

ServicePaloosa: The attack on invasive species on the James Farm Easement by ORMS was a total success.

Education/Outreach: C. Fisher reported that she led two nature walks, one on Saturday, May 6, with 28 attendees and another on Saturday, June 4, with 4 attendees. She reported that the teachers of Mastway School are organizing an annual program of contributions for the support of the Town Forest. After some discussion of the possibilities for accepting and maintaining such a fund it was decided that the Commission would create a sub-account in the Dave Allan Fund for this purpose.

Conservation Lands Management: B. Humm reported that some Boy Scouts are seeking service projects and could, possibly, agree to provide information kiosks at the **Joe Ford Wildlife Preserve** and the **Town Forest**. Bob Doane, whose property abuts the **Rothwell Reserve**, will remove the smaller Norway maples on the Reserve for no cost. Eversource will remove the large maple tree and leave the wood for Mr. Doane. Traffic management will need to be arranged for the approximately 3 hours required by the Eversource tree removal crew. A. Tappan reported that she and representatives of the UNH Cooperative Extension visited **Little River Park** to assess its potential for Woodcock habitat restoration or enhancement. There was general approval of such a project beginning in the spring of 2017 with continuing activity to maintain the habitat and to remove a small patch of Japanese knotweed.

Lee's 250th Celebration: While the Commission plans a number of special activities during the Town Fair, there are no special plans for the activities of July 16/17.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kennard Easement: A. Tappan spoke in favor of the Town's supporting SELT in constructing parking facilities and developing and maintaining a trail system on the easement with a contribution of approximately \$22,000. C. Fisher also supported the concept and noted that it provides improved facilities for considerably less money than the purchase planned but not completed last year. As any Town contribution will require a vote by the Town, A. Tappan will contact SELT and confirm that a delay until March, 2017, will be acceptable.

NEW BUSINESS:

Solar Array on Coppal House Farm Easement: The Huttons and Travis Genatossio described the plan to have Revision Energy install a 13.78 kWdc solar array on a portion of the Town's easement on the

farm. All electricity generated would be used on the farm. The array will be installed at a height which will permit sheep to graze under it. After considerable discussion of the project D. Meeker moved and D. Shay seconded the following:

Motion: The Conservation Commission recommends that the Select Board approve the request by Coppal House Farm to install a solar power 13.78 kWdc array on its conservation easement. In the Commission's judgement installation of the array does not conflict with section 1.c. of the easement agreement signed April 12, 1991.

The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that the LCHIP office needs to be informed of this action.

Rumors of Subdivision on High Road at Lee/Epping Boundary: Fred Wolff informed the Commission of his concern for a possible large subdivision near the Lee/Epping boundary at the end of High Road. High Road runs into a Class 6 road in Epping which, in the past, the Epping voters have declined to upgrade. As High Road is a scenic road there is concern that a major subdivision in that location would greatly increase traffic on it. The Commission expressed its thanks to Mr. Wolff for the information and intends to keep informed about the situation.

Mapping Trails on Town-Owned Land: Liz Durfee provided information concerning Strafford Regional Planning's plans to map the trails on the various Town-owned properties. She sought to confirm that the mapped trails placed on the Town's website are suitable for public use. Each of the trails proposed for mapping were discussed in detail and those suitable for the website agreed upon. She also informed the Commission of plans to revise and update conservation easement mapping for use in the GIS database, GRANIT.

Election of Officers: David Meeker was elected to another term as Secretary/Treasurer and Bill Humm was elected to another term as Chair of the Commission. In both cases the votes were almost unanimous with, in each instance, one abstention.

Dog Waste at Little River Park and the Town Forest: C. Fisher feels that dog waste stations might be successful at LRP but might not be used correctly at the Town Forest. She suggested that metal signs posted at the trail heads might be most effective. A. Tappan agreed with these suggestions. S. Bugbee stated that the Select Board is waiting further discussion before taking action. After considerable discussion the Commission agreed that the steps proposed above were appropriate and signs stating policies for posting at LRP and the Town Forest were selected for printing. A station for dog waste collection is to be installed at Little River Park.

Membership Contribution to SELT: It was agreed that a contribution of \$200 was appropriate.

Next Meeting: July ??, 2016

Submitted By _____
David Meeker