

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of November 7, 2016

Present:

Members: Catherine Fisher, Antoinette Hartgerink, Bill Humm (Chair), David Meeker, Tim Moody, David Shay, Richard Weyrick, Emeritus Member

Visitors: Brenden Quigley of Gove Environmental; Frank C. Monteiro, P.E. of MHF Design Consultants, Inc.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on October 6, 2016, approved with corrections.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the LCC account as of October 31, 2016, was \$14,838.90 composed of

LCC Funds	\$12,033.41
Dave Allan Fund	\$ 2,804.79

Trails on Town Lands: B. Humm has received files from Strafford Regional Planning describing the location of trails on Town-owned lands. R. Weyrick stated that the trails on Lee Five Corners and Old Mill Reserve are not intended for publication at this time. The Commission expects to formally consider this matter at its next meeting. R. Weyrick also stated that there is a Trails Committee being organized which involves both the Conservation and Recreation Commissions and is in need of additional members.

Easement Monitoring: The Ellis Oyster River Reserve has been visited and nothing of concern was observed. Caren Rossi is in the process of visiting the Cook/Schultz easement.

Conservation Lands Management: R. Weyrick stated that he has trail markers for the **Ellis Oyster River Reserve** and is planning to place the markers, probably at 10 A.M. on November 16. C. Fisher offered to assist him. A meeting with Randy Stevens is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9, to discuss the cutting of brush in the old apple orchard on the **Town Forest** behind the Safety Complex.

Educational Outreach: Members of the Commission manned a booth at the recent informational day held by SPNHF for its Powder Major's Farm Project. Considerable interest was expressed by the public, especially in the exhibit of invasive species.

OLD BUSINESS:

Shade Trees at Little River Park: C. Fisher introduced a discussion of the tree species which might be suitable for planting to provide shade at Little River Park. She provided a list of both evergreen and deciduous drought resistant species which was discussed and enlarged by comments of others. It was felt that the needs and possibilities of the project needs to be discussed with the Select Board. It was suggested that Selectman Bugbee, representative to the Commission, might arrange such a discussion.

Trees Near the Annex: B. Humm remarked on the poor condition of the trees growing near the Annex. It was decided that this matter should be fully addressed after the Town decides on changes, if any, at the Town Hall complex.

NEW BUSINESS:

Development at Lee Circle: Mr. Monteiro described the project his company is currently involved in at the Lee Circle. It involves the rehabilitation and expansion of the **Mobil Station** now on the site. They are planning to fill some 38,250 sq. feet of wetland at four locations within the site. They state that some 2/3 of the wetland to be filled is man-made resulting from previous development at the site. The plan will require the issuance of several variances relating to various set-back issues. R. Weyrick expressed concern for runoff from the site due to the expansion of impermeable surface. Mr. Monteiro responded that the designers are considering permeable surfaces for some of the parking areas. Because of these issues the development will require some form of wetlands mitigation.

New Procedures for Wetlands Mitigation: Brendan Quigley outlined the current NH DES procedure for wetlands mitigation. The program now requires developers to search for a suitable mitigation

project in the town in which the need for mitigation is initiated and, if that is not possible, to contribute to a fund to which towns within the affected watershed can submit applications for mitigation programs within their borders. It is estimated that a mitigation fund for the Lee Circle development would be around \$149,000. There followed a discussion of local properties of approximately 20 acres in extent which might be appropriate mitigation sites. Several properties were mentioned but none seemed outstanding. B. Humm agreed to consider these and other options and report to the Commission.

Next Meeting: December 5, 2016

Submitted By _____
David Meeker