

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of December 5, 2016**

### **Present:**

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

**Alternate Members:** Amanda Gourgue

**Visitors:** Rachel Rouillard and Abby Lyon of Piscataqua Region Monitoring Collaborative.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Minutes of meeting held on November 6, 2016, approved as written.

### **Updates and Announcements:**

**LCC Bank Balance:** The balance in the LCC account as of November 30, 2016, was \$ composed of

LCC Funds	\$
Dave Allan Fund	\$

**Cooperative Extension Town/Community Forest Survey:** R. Weyrick agreed to contact NHACC and inform them of the Town's forests and its forest management activities.

**Lee Circle Development:** The developers are presenting a proposal to the ZBA in January. A. Hartgerink feels that a site visit is required before the Commission can provide proper advice to the ZBA. She will schedule the visit.

**Easement Monitoring:** Caren Rossi has completed the monitoring of the **Cook/Shultz** easement. The required surveying on the **Blickle/Chisholm** easement is underway but not yet complete.

**Education and Outreach:** C. Fisher has made "Thank you" letters to be sent to easement owners. She and A. Gourgue will address and mail the letters. The Commission will have a small display at the fund-raising dinner the ORHS Sustainability Club is hosting in support of SPNHF's Powder Major's Farm project at the Oyster River High School.

**Town of Lee Master Plan 2016-2026:** The final Master Plan is now available on the Town's website.

**Conservation Lands Management:** Mark Davis, Pawtuckaway Nursery, is meeting with the Recreation Commission at 6:30 PM on December 6 to discuss possible tree planting at **Little River Park**. B. Humm, C. Fisher, and R. Weyrick will attend the meeting. Trail marking and chainsaw work is needed on the **Ellis Oyster River Reserve**. After discussing the situation with the Town Administrator, it was decided that the cutting should be professionally done. R. Weyrick will contact Don Quigley for a recommendation. Plans are under development for brush cutting in the old apple orchard in the **Town Forest**. B. Humm will organize the project with Randy Stevens. B. Humm and R. Weyrick have posted "No Hunting" signs on **Lee Five Corners Reserve**. Some signs had been removed and were replaced. C. Fisher suggested that a more permanent sign should be placed on the gate. A. Tappan suggested that NH Fish & Game Department might have suggestions for appropriate signage. The regulations for such signage and the difficulties associated with their posting and maintenance were discussed. A. Tappan announced that NRCS has completed their project for the development of habitat for the NE Cottontail at **Old Mill Reserve**. She is impressed that the project converted a site too overgrown for the cottontail to a very early succession habitat suitable for a great many wildlife species. She encouraged Commission members to visit the site.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Wetland Mitigation at Lee Circle:** B. Humm reported that a contribution to SPNHF for the Powder Major's Farm may be a suitable mitigation project as required for the wetlands encroachment of the project.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Monitoring of the Great Bay Estuary:** Rachel Rouillard introduced the Commission to the Piscataqua Region Monitoring Collaborative's plans for monitoring and protecting the Great Bay Estuarine System. Abby Lyon described the activities involved in its long-range program and those of the coming summer. She provided hand-outs with a brief description of the goals and activities of the PRMC

and a request for an annual contribution from the towns in the immediate region. They are suggesting a per capita contribution of \$1.27 for each of the following 3 years. At this rate the contribution for Lee would amount to approximately \$5,500 per year. After some discussion of the goals of the program and their relationship to the needs of Lee it was suggested that the Town's contribution of \$150,000 to the Powder Major's Farm might be available to PRMC as a local "match" to generate additional federal or other agency grants. These issues will be discussed again at the next meeting of the Commission.

**Mapping Trails on Town Lands:** R. Weyrick described local efforts to map trails on Town-owned lands supported by the Lamprey River Advisory Committee which obtained a grant from the US Park Service. The group is seeking some formal association with the Town. There was some discussion of the project and which of the Town's trails should be listed on the Town's website. There was also a discussion of what Town organization(s) should be responsible for maintenance and regulation of the Town's trails. It was felt important that, as in the past, the Commission have primary responsibility but collaborate with other bodies to provide Lee's citizens with interesting, scenic, safe, and sustainable trails. It was mentioned that UNH Cooperative Extension has joined with other organizations in NH and Vermont to develop a web-based "Trail Finder" site organizing trail information in the two states.

**Collaboration with Sustainability Committee:** Paul Gasowski, chair of the Sustainability Committee, contacted B. Humm with a request that the Commission join with his committee in sponsoring a poster advocating water conservation in the Town. A. Tappan suggested that the poster include a link to the website US Drought Monitor, Northeast which provides weekly updated information on drought conditions. C. Fisher suggested that the Commission endorse this effort to inform the public of drought conditions and the need to develop sustainable practices in response to it. B. Humm agreed to discuss the Commission's position with Mr. Gasowski.

**Donation to SPNHF for Powder Major's Farm:** A. Tappan moved and C. Fisher seconded a motion "That the Commission donate \$500 from the Dave Allen Fund to support the Powder Major's Farm Project." The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting: January 2, 2017**

Submitted By \_\_\_\_\_  
David Meeker