

Lee Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting of August 1, 2017

Present:

Members: Catherine Fisher, Bill Humm (Chair), David Meeker, David Shay, Anne Tappan

Alternate Members: Amanda Gourgue

Ex Officio: Scott Bugbee, Select Board Representative

Visitors: John Hall, Scoutmaster of Troop 459, Justin Partus, Troop 154, Dana Partus, Assistant Scoutmaster Troop 154, Durham, NH.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on July 3, 2017, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the Commission's account as of July 31, 2017, was \$19,075.21 composed of

LCC Funds	\$16,269.69
Dave Allan Fund	\$ 2,805.79

Easement Monitoring: During July visits were made to Lee Little River Reserve, Mills Little River Park, Old Mill Reserve, and DeMeritt Hill Farm. C. Fisher noted that there were clumps of Autumn Olive growing on Old Mill Reserve and suggested that removal efforts be considered in the fall.

Conservation Lands Management: The burial of Mr. Wilson on the easement at DeMeritt Hill Farm was accomplished with no problem and B. Humm expressed his appreciation by the prompt response and assistance by the NH LCHIP officials in their approval of the burial.

Substitute Contact: D. Meeker agreed to serve as contact person for the Commission during B. Humm's absence from August 5 to 12.

SPNHF Project at Emery Farm in Durham: A. Tappan noted that the Society is attempting to raise the last \$80,000 by August 31 and it would be appropriate to mention this in the Commission's Facebook page. A. Gourgue agreed to do this.

Education and Outreach: C. Fisher reported that the planned SPNHF walk on August 5 will be about 3 miles in extent and take approximately 3 hours. She has learned of at least 20 individuals planning to participate. She also noted that parking may be a problem because of other events scheduled for that day and that, in the future, parking arrangements should be confirmed before scheduling major events.

LCC Activities, Accomplishments, and Plans Report to BOS: A. Tappan suggested the addition of "Make recommendations to ZBA and Planning Board" to the list of activities undertaken by the LCC.

Trail mapping update: B. Humm reported that Dick Weyrick has offered to look at his files to see what he can do to move this project forward.

OLD BUSINESS:

Scout Project at Lee Little River Reserve: Scoutmaster John Hall described the current situation with the trail construction being managed by his son Jack Hall. He noted that Troop 459 has assumed responsibility for the necessary modifications to the bridge. He assured the Commission that the bridge and trail will be completed, at the latest, by September. C. Fisher expressed her concern for the slope down to and across the current bridge and hoped that, eventually, it could be replaced by a longer and level bridge. Mr. Hall suggested that it might be accomplished by steps down to the bridge at both ends. He feels that significant modification of the bridge should be considered a separate project by his troop and there was general agreement with this. Once the gaps between boards on the present bridge are narrowed Jack Hall's Eagle Scout Project will be completed prior to his 18th birthday as required by the policy of the Boy Scouts. S. Bugbee asked about signage on the trail. Mr. Hall suggested that it would be appropriate to give the Scouts of Troop 459 credit but not, specifically, Jack Hall.

Possible Moose Plate Grant Project, Joe Ford Wildlife Reserve (JFWR): A. Tappan described the information she has gathered thus far. Her research indicates that the proposed project falls within the

parameters set by the State Conservation Committee Conservation Grant Program. An important by-product of her research has been the discovery that the field at JTWR has decreased significantly in size over the past nine years - from 14 acres in 2006 down to 7 acres in 2015. Aerial photographs will be consulted to determine how much acreage the field encompassed during Joe Ford's lifetime. Discussed also was the advisability of this being a collaborative project between the numerous organizations and individuals who are involved with this property.

NEW BUSINESS:

Extension of Water Line to Lee Circle: B. Humm reported that Durham is considering the extension of its water line to the Lee Circle to provide water service to those businesses and property owners in the area who choose to enroll. This action is to address, in part, the environmental and health concerns following from the contamination from leaky fuel tanks in the past.

Draft Budget for FY 2018: After some discussion it was decided that the Commission would request the same amount, \$5,300, as it requested for the current year.

Possible Easement Opportunity: Duane Hyde, of the Southeast Land Trust, informed B. Humm that he has been approached by a Mr. Strong concerning a possible conservation easement on a 54 acre property off Wednesday Hill Road. B. Humm noted that the property does not have a high priority score on the Commission's co-occurrence map but still may be of sufficient interest to justify some contribution of the Town.

Lee Fair: Besides information booklets and the co-occurrence map, a children's activity book, *Lee in Bloom*, will be on offer at our booth. The invasive plant display will be reprised. There will be no treasure hunt this year, but a nature walk will take place. C. Fisher will write a description of what we'll have on offer for inclusion in the fair's program. A tent and three tables will be needed. A. Tappan offered the use of a table. C. Fisher will get in touch Dick Babcock to see if his tent and table can be used.

Next Meeting: September 5, 2017

Submitted By _____
David Meeker