

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of September 5, 2017**

**Present Members:** Catherine Fisher, Bill Humm (Chair), David Meeker, Tim Moody, David Shay, Anne Tappan

**Ex Officio:** Scott Bugbee, Select Board Representative

**Visitors:** John Hutton, Coppal House Farm

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Minutes of meeting held on August 1, 2017, approved as written.

### **Updates and Announcements:**

**LCC Bank Balance:** The balance in the Commission's account as of August 31, 2017, was \$19,077.06 composed of

LCC Funds	\$16,271.27
Dave Allan Fund	\$ 2,805.79

**Easement Monitoring:** Monitoring visits to the Quigley, McLean, Humphrey, Talley, Fogg, Schulz/Friedlander, and Henry easements were made. The only item of concern was the remaining material and equipment in the process of being removed from the Fogg easement. Visits to the Cox/Randall, Claridge/Woodall, and Palmer/Brissard easements are planned.

**Education/Outreach:** C. Fisher described her preparation for the interpretive walk she and Don Quigley will lead in the Maud Jones Memorial Forest on Saturday, October 7. She also reported that the Town Forest walk that she and Lauren Kraus (SPNHF) led, with assistance from A. Tappan, was well-attended and very successful.

**Conservation Lands Management:** B. Humm reported that Bio-Spray is planning to spray non-native invasives on the **Town Forest** on September 7, with continued focus on oriental bittersweet and burning bush. They also have permits for spraying on the **Joe Ford Wildlife Reserve** and the **Rothwell Reserve**. A. Tappan and C. Fisher noted that they have found extensive stands of Autumn Olive, Black Locust, and other invasive species on **Old Mill Reserve**. A. Tappan has contacted NRCS about their policy of control. They informed her that the presence of Durham's well near the property complicates the situation. NRCS stated that they would appreciate a letter from the Commission expressing support for the removal of the invasive species on the site. Both Anne and Catherine feel that mechanical removal is not feasible. It was decided that A. Tappan would contact NRCS and schedule a coordinated site visit to investigate the situation.

**Tree Planting at Little River Park:** S. Bugbee expressed the Select Board's appreciation for the effort the Commission made to work with the Recreation Commission in the selection of tree species for planting in Little River Park.

**Lee Fair, September 9:** D. Babcock will provide tables and a tent. C. Fisher will organize the invasive species exhibit and conduct a nature walk at 11 A.M.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Eagle Scout Trail Project at Little River Reserve:** B. Humm reported that the safety concern for the bridge's construction has been addressed and that other problems concerning the approaches to the bridge will be completed by other scouts in the troop. He also reported on a visit to the trail and the mill site by members of the Commission and the Heritage Commission and noted that there are possible safety concerns relating to possible public interest in viewing the old mill's stone foundation itself. Access to the old foundation from the current trail is difficult and possibly hazardous. C. Fisher suggested that the current trail might be extendible to provide a safer path to view the foundation. While there is, possibly, a safe path from the nearby road, the lack of parking space along the road creates another problem. It was decided that a joint visit with representatives of the Heritage Commission should be scheduled to jointly seek a means of safe public access to the historically important mill site.

**Viewing Platform at the Lee Bog:** C. Fisher reported that the platform will soon need repair. S. Bugbee asked if the repairs are something the town employees could do. B. Humm will contact the Town Administrator to see if the needed work is appropriate for town employees.

**Moose Plate Grant Project at Joe Ford Wildlife Reserve:** A. Tappan offered to arrange visits to the Reserve by the various groups (SELT, NRCS, NH Electric Coop, Audubon Society, the Cox family) involved with the Reserve to discuss formulation of a proposal to address its invasive species infestation in a comprehensive manner. It was decided that she will write an introductory letter to be sent to the various groups and agencies under the signature of B. Humm. She also offered, if necessary, to conduct multiple field trips to the Reserve for the various groups. Furthermore, she is going to make an initial approach to the Moose Plate Grant officials to assess their possible response to such a proposal.

**Trail Mapping Update:** B. Humm reported that D. Weyrick's health problems prevent him from attending meetings, but, he has offered to meet with one or more people at his house to provide an update on the status of the effort to provide GPS coordinates for the trails on the Town's property. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Building Extension on Coppal House Farm Easement:** John Hutton presented a request to construct a 24' x 36' extension to the current hay barn on the easement area in order to meet the needs of a growing sheep flock. It was decided to postpone a visit to the site until A. Hartgerink can participate. Mr. Hutton also notified the Commission of his plans to do a ditch clean-up on the northern easement held by the N.H. Dept. of Agriculture and to have Don Quigley prepare a forest management plan which will permit a selective cutting of a woodlot suitable for subsequent silvopasturage. B. Humm will seek to determine the Commission's responsibility concerning activities on the State's easement.

**Mentorship Activities:** A. Tappan introduced the concept of a "mentorship program", as discussed by the Sustainability Committee at a recent Select Board meeting. Such a program would have the goal of increasing public interest and participation in the Commission's activities such as its easement monitoring and the identification and control of invasive species. After some discussion, it was decided to discuss the feasibility of such a program with visitors to the Commission's booth at the Fair and to reconsider the topic at a later meeting.

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 2, 2017**

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