

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of January 8 2018

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

Visitor: Sean McGann, 13 Chestnut Way

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on December 4 and the special meeting of December 20, 2017, approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the Commission's account as of December 31, 2017, was \$18,148.76 composed of

LCC Funds	\$15,342.25
Dave Allan Fund	\$ 2,806.51

Proposed Development: A large development, Marathon Circle Town Houses, is under consideration on Rt. 125 opposite the Lee Raceway. The developer plans to meet with the Planning Board in the coming month.

Easement Monitoring: Caren Rossi has completed the 2017 monitoring with her visit to the Echo Ridge easement. Amanda Gourgue is preparing "Thank You" notes to be sent to all the easement land owners.

Conservation-Related Trust Funds: There has been some consideration for using funds from the Town's two trust funds associated with conservation activities for the purchase of the Lee Church Congregational property adjoining the Town Center complex. The Trustees of the Trust Funds will investigate the possibility in a coming meeting on January 11.

Deliberative Session: The Town's Deliberative Session devoted to the 2018 Warrant will be held on February 3.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commission's Warrant Articles: The Commission is associated with two warrant articles to be voted upon in 2018. The first concerns the transfer of funds derived from the sale of timber from the Maud Jones Memorial Forest from the Undesignated Fund Balance to the Conservation Land Stewardship Trust Fund. There was no discussion of this article. The second article seeks to give SPNHF a conservation easement on the 7.49 acres of the Town Forest containing the large vernal pool. There was a discussion of the timing of the article given the other issues facing the Town. After considerable discussion of the issues it was decided not to withdraw the article from the Town's warrant. C. Fisher agreed to prepare written material in support of the article.

Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary: In December, A. Tappan led a site walk in the sanctuary accompanied by wildlife biologists, Melisa Doperalski from the NH Department of Fish and Game and Ted Kendziora from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Both biologists thought that the site was appropriate for a habitat management improvement project focused on the needs of the New England Cottontail. Mr. Kendziora felt that the USFWS might fund the entire project. Details of the project must be settled with the USFWS early in the spring. In discussing this situation B. Humm reported that he is working with the Town's attorney to determine the legal "grantor" of the easement and, if required, ensure that the Town assumes that role. He will inform the Commission of the situation once it is clear. A. Tappan noted that in her reading of the easement documents she noted several apparent inconsistencies. She will prepare a summary of her concerns for a future discussion.

Trails Mapping Update: T. Moody reported on progress with the project and outlined his suggestion for the future. He suggests imbedding gps data using the "Open Street Map" application with links to the Town's website. There was a discussion of those trails within the Town that are appropriate for inclusion in this activity.

NEW BUSINESS:

McGann Driveway Encroachment: Sean McGann has constructed a new house and has just been informed that the driveway he has built and paved extends into the setback surrounding wetlands on the property. After some discussion of the issue and the difficulties associated with the lot, it was decided that A. Hartgerink would visit the site and prepare a response for an application to the ZBA.

Advisory Budget Committee Recommendation: The Commission has learned that the ABC has recommended that it not receive an appropriation in the FY 2019 Town Budget because of the size of the current balance of its account. After considerable discussion of the current situation and the expected expenditures for the coming year, it was decided not to formally oppose the ABC recommendation.

Offshore Wind Energy Forum: The Energy Committee has asked the Commission to join it in sponsoring a public forum presenting the details associated with the generation of energy by offshore wind-power installations. After a discussion, it was decided that the Commission would co-sponsor the forum.

Next Meeting: February 5, 2018

Submitted By _____
David Meeker