

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of July 2, 2018

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

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on June 4 approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

Reports: A Hartgerink reported that Caren Rossi had mentioned that a resident of Jenkins Rd. seeks permission to build a small shed on his property. The home is sited near wet soils. A site visit will likely occur.

Easement Monitoring: C. Fisher, A. Hartgerink, and B. Humm monitored Verrette, Brady, and Hutton easements. On June 25 the above LCC members were joined by D. Shay and monitored the Mills Little River Park easement and then revisited the James Farm easement in order to mark the loop trail and assess what work needs to be done there. In the coming month, visits are planned to Demeritt Hill Farm (11th) and McClean/Quigley (25th). Old Mill Reserve was also slated for monitoring this month, but as the temperatures forecast for the day of the monitoring (5th) were for the high 90's, C. Fisher suggested this property be done in late fall.

Education/Outreach: No walks or other outreach activities took place in June, but C. Fisher reported writing an article for the E-Crier about zombie flies in the Town Forest.

Conservation Lands Management:

Timber Harvest adjacent to Verrette Conservation Easement: B. Humm reported that a timber harvest is planned on property adjacent that shares a 0.35-mile common boundary with the Verrette easement. He will write a letter to the property owner (Diane Byrne) letting her know that the Town of Lee has a financial and conservation interest with the Verrette property and asking that she and the forester who does the cutting be aware of the boundary.

Observation platform in the Lee bog: C. Fisher, B. Humm, and D. Meeker met with Randy Stevens at the platform on the afternoon of June 14. The platform is quite decrepit. D. Meeker researched using 10" floats which can be used to make a floating platform. R. Stevens was asked for advice as to who the LCC might hire to do the work. Whether thick pine boards or artificial wood will be used for the planking is still under discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Randy Stevens' retirement: The celebration will take place on July 25 at 6 p.m. at the Grange. Caren Rossi gave Bill the name of two restaurants that Randy and Michele enjoy going to. In addition, to these, he will check out other possible ideas for a gift.

Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) Family Paddling Event: This event is planned for late July and LRAC would like to have the LCC co-sponsor this event and, perhaps, with participation by a committee member with knowledgeable in riparian-edge flora and fauna, and, in particular, birds. While the committee members were enthusiastic about the worthiness of the event, no one was free to participate this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Enlargement of Town Forest CE: B. Humm will get in touch with Brian Hotz of SPNHF to make sure that adding the vernal pool acreage to the Town Forest easement is still on their agenda and that perhaps this can be done by late summer or early fall.

Contributions from Mast Way teachers, parents, and students: C. Fisher brought contributions raised by the Mast Way community in the amount of \$1033.00. These funds were gathered to help defray the costs of adding to the vernal pool acreage to the Town Forest easement. Any excess funds are to be used for trail upkeep, structures, and invasive plant species eradication in the Town Forest.

Invasive plant control on State highways: B. Humm reported that he has identified many patches of knotweed along Rte. 155. He noted smaller areas of knotweed along Rt. 152 as well as some patches of bittersweet. Work has yet to be done identifying areas of invasive plants growing along Rtes. 125 and 155-A.

Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary: A. Tappan reported that she and B. Humm did a site visit to the Sanctuary on June 16. There are still questions about where and how wildlife habitat management will be done. Once it has been established how much land will be managed, she will have Don Quigley do a baseline tree survey. A. Tappan will continue to work on the management plan and will do additional site visits with any interested persons.

Meeting time change: A. Tappan reported that Scott Bugbee suggested we continue with our regular meeting time of the first Monday of each month but change meeting times to the 2nd Monday of the month when there is a conflict with the Select Board meetings.

Foster's article on Langley & Kennard Forest: A. Tappan reported that there had been a nice write-up about Ron Kennard and SELT's work to conserve the Langley & Kennard Forest.

Next Meeting: August 6, 2018: D. Meeker will fill in for vacationing B. Humm. C. Fisher will fill in for D. Meeker.

Submitted by David Meeker with assist from Catherine Fisher and Anne Tappan