

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of September 4, 2018

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

Ex Officio: Scott Bugbee, Select Board Representative

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on August 6 approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

Easement Monitoring: Monitoring visits to Tally, Fogg, Schultz-Friedlander, and Humphrey easements were made. September visits are planned to Woodall (9/5), Brissard (9/12), and Daley (9/26) easements.

Variance for Development of Two Commercial Lots on Rte. 125: B. Humm, A. Hartgerink, A. Tappan and C. Fisher met on the proposed site with Marc Jacobs and Dave Garvey. D. Garvey reported that, for the present, the only variance applied for will be the driveway to the northernmost property. A. Tappan shared some thoughts about how the property might be configured so as to provide a more extensive buffer to the two productive vernal pools encompassed there. She will speak to Caren Rossi to request that a meeting be arranged with M. Jacobs, D. Garvey, and available LCC members.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers: C. Fisher was elected to serve as Secretary and Amanda Gourgue was elected to serve as Treasurer for the remainder of the year.

Lee Fair (Sept. 8): Richard Babcock will deliver his tent and two tables sometimes after 9:00 a.m. A. Tappan will bring an additional table as well as a variety of native and non-native flowering plants for use with the pollinator display. C. Fisher will bring additional flowering plants; assorted pollinator-themed books, brochures, pamphlets and posters; display stands; monarch caterpillars and chrysalises; markers and mini posters for the children's area. A small table and four chairs will be delivered from Mast Way. C. Fisher, A. Hartgerink, and B. Humm will be stationed at the booth for at least part of the day as well as being on site for dismantling. A. Tappan will be present all day. C. Fisher will lead a nature walk at 11:00.

Vice-chair Appointment: As B. Humm will be away from September 18 to October 11, A. Hartgerink offered to serve as the contact for the Commission during that time period. C. Fisher volunteered as the back-up contact.

OLD BUSINESS:

Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary: A. Tappan reported that work on the management plan progresses. On Aug. 21, she and B. Humm met with Ted Kendziora to flag and mark with GPS those areas to be managed for New England cottontail habitat. There remains a long list of things to be done: survey the boundary at Joe Ford's former residence; survey boundary from the road to Lang's Brook; survey area around the Hoitt cemetery and work to make sure that the cemetery is not negatively impacted by management of the property; send letters to abutters, particularly those currently residing in the old Ford residence, informing them of the management plans for the sanctuary.

A buffer will be left along the road, but how thick a buffer has yet to be determined. Also to be determined is the method to be used in tree cutting. Two methods are being considered: 1)

cutting method in which stumps and downed woody material will be left while the area grows into a young forest habitat; or 2) cross-hatched: cut trees and woody material will be removed, leaving the area to grow or be seeded and converted to field that will be part of the rotational mowing schedule.

B. Humm reported that he solicited bids for the surveying work to three surveying businesses recommended by Caren Rossi. One was not currently taking on new work. The difference in price between the remaining two surveyors was not significantly different, and as Adam Fogg's company, Atlantic Survey, is one whose services the Commission has used and been satisfied with, the Commission voted to use its services. The BOS will be notified of this decision.

Trail Mapping: T. Moody reported that he had mapped the river trails at Little River Park using the app AllTrails. The contrast between the background and the trail is very good, and the website allows for descriptions of trail uses and restrictions. Using this app, he plans to map other town trails as time allows.

Town Center Vision Committee: The architect hired by the Town Center Vision Committee has worked up a survey to help determine the space needs of various town commissions, committees and other entities. S. Bugbee suggested that a prior survey could be consulted to assist in filling out the new survey. B. Humm, C. Fisher and A. Tappan will meet in the coming week to provide answers to the current survey's questions.

Black Locusts at Little River Park: A Tappan reported that the stand of locusts on the slope overlooking the woodcock courtship area are getting tall again, and proposed a cutting project in October or November.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 15, 2018

Submitted by _____
Catherine Fisher