

Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of April 1, 2019

Present Members: Catherine Fisher, Bill Humm (Chair), Tim Moody, Dave Shay and Anne Tappan
Alternate Members: Dawn Genes, Deb Sugerman
Ex Officio: Scott Bugbee (Select Board Representative)

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of March 4, 2019 approved as written.

Updates and Announcements:

ZBA: A. Tappan reported that Dave Garvey has withdrawn his ZBA application. The ZBA voted that the property on the two commercial lots on Rte. 125 did not meet requirements for contiguous frontage. D. Garvey had thirty days in which to appeal and did not, so his application was withdrawn.

S. Bugbee reported that the Bedrock Gardens abutters have appealed; Bedrock Gardens cannot open until this goes before the Strafford Court.

Historical Society: S. Bugbee informed the Commission that former (and much-missed) Commission member, Dave Meeker, will be reading from his collection of memoirs at the Society's annual meeting to be held at the Grange, Friday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m.

LCC Bank Balance: The balance in the Commission's account, as reported by Amanda Gourgue to B Humm, is 15,695.09 and is composed of

LCC Funds: \$14,022.03

Dave Allan Fund \$ 2,033.06

Substitute Contact: C. Fisher will serve as contact person for the Commission during B. Humm's absence during April 2 to 18.

Death of John McLean: C. Fisher reported on the passing of John McLean, co-owner with his wife Elaine of one of the conservation easements monitored by the Commission. A condolence card was signed by the members and will be sent to the McLean family.

Reports:

Education and Outreach: C. Fisher reported that, due medical appointments she has in May, she and T. Moody have decided that it would be useful to postpone, until autumn, the Historical Society talk on some of the Town's trails. This will also give them the opportunity to take photographs of trail highlights and trailside flora and fauna.

C. Fisher reported that she has three walks planned for April: two frog walks (morning and evening), to be held whenever the frogs emerge; and an Earth Day walk with the Oyster River Parents of Preschoolers.

Conservation Lands Management: B. Humm reported that he and C. Fisher visited DeMeritt Hill Farm and met with the logging contractor there in order to view the timber harvest taking place on the property. They found that, while the work did not violate the terms of the easement, it was none-the-less much more extensive than they would have advised had the LCC been apprised of the Farm's logging plans beforehand. B. Humm sent a letter to the property owner, Ellen Wilson, explaining that, ordinarily, whenever a significant land management change is being planned on a property under easement, the LCC confers with the owner. Usually, when an Intent to Cut Notice has been filed for a property under conservation easement, Planning and Zoning Administrator, Caren Rossi, informs the Commission; in this instance, that didn't occur. Following a discussion regarding property owners' understanding of the restrictions and responsibilities associated with conservation easements, the Commission agreed that B. Humm will, sometime in the next few

months, draft an explanatory letter; pending input by the Commission, this will be sent out to owners of properties with conservation easements.

OLD BUSINESS

Easement Monitoring: Because of snowy terrain, the first monitoring session (Stevens) scheduled for March 27 was canceled. It was decided to continue with the 2019 schedule as listed, and to do the Stevens property at a yet-to-be-determined date.

Request for variance near Rte. 125 and Rte.152 intersection: A. Tappan reported that Fred Schultz has not yet filed complete plans with the ZBA for variance for the property on 67 Demerit Ave., hence the application is incomplete. Though the ZBA has not yet asked for input from the Commission, the wet soils areas have been flagged and a preliminary site visit has been scheduled for April 9.

NEW BUSINESS

Donation to Southeast Land Trust: A Tappan noted that SELT is working to expand the Lamprey River Wildlife Preserve to 158 acres. She suggested that the Commission make a contribution. The Commission voted to send a check in the amount of \$200.00. C. Fisher will inform Treasurer Amanda Gourgue and write a cover letter to accompany the check.

Posting Town Trails on TrailFinder (www.TrailFinder.info): T. Moody has submitted an inquiry about how to upload files. Once Town trails have been posted on TrailFinder, this information will be written up for the E-Crier. C. Fisher reported that she had contacted Town Secretary Denise Duval about making a link to the trails on the Town's Home Page; D. Duval suggested that she can put a link to the Commission's page under "Quick Links", indicating that it is a short cut to the trail links.

Possible NH BioBlitz Application: Erick Sawtelle forwarded the information to B. Humm. After a brief discussion it was decided that, currently, the Commission has too many projects to take this on, though it might be an event worth considering in the future.

Garlic Mustard Challenge at Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary: A. Tappan reported that there is a patch growing on the property, near the power line right of way and the residence. It was decided that she would note the specific location and growth stage of the patch, and that CC members might then do some garlic mustard pulling where it is located. The ideal time for removal is when the plant is in flower - sometime in May. Should this go forward, advertising in Nature Groupie is a consideration.

Saving Special Places: The annual land conservation conference held by the N.H. Assoc. of Conservation Commissions will be held in Alton on Saturday, April 6. B. Humm spoke of the conference's many informative workshops and presentations, and informed members that the Commission covers the cost of registration.

Expiration of Antionette Hartgerink's Term: After many years of service on the Commission, Toni is stepping down. She has agreed to become an emeritus member, and will continue to participate in easement monitoring, as well as assisting her replacement as the Commission's liaison to the ZBA and Planning Boards.

A. Tappan has volunteered to be A. Hartgerink's replacement as the aforementioned liaison. She reported that, based on a discussion with C. Rossi, updated procedures will be implemented regarding wetland site visits. If a decision needs to be made during a site visit, the visit must be advertised, a quorum is required, and minutes must be taken. If Commission members attending a site visit number fewer than a quorum, but a decision is necessary before one of the Commission's monthly meetings, an advertised special meeting must be held, and again, minutes of that meeting are required.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 6, 2019

Submitted by Catherine Fisher