

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of May 7, 2019**

**Present Members:** Catherine Fisher, Dawn Genes, Bill Humm (Chair), Dave Shay, Anne Tappan

**Alternate Member:** Deb Sugerman

**Ex Officio:** Scott Bugbee (Select Board Representative)

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Minutes of April 1, 2019 approved as written.

### **Updates and Announcements:**

**ZBA:** A. Tappan reported on a site visit made to the Schultz property at 71 Demeritt Ave. attended by LCC members C. Fisher, Dawn Genes, A. Tappan, and emeritus member Antoinette Hartgerink. Fred Schultz, Jim Gove (Gove Environmental Services), S. Bugbee, Caren Rossi, and Bill Booth (PBZ) also attended. While an application has not yet been submitted to the ZBA, Mr. Schultz plans to expand the existing Versacon building and will need an additional ten parking spaces. Wetlands in the area were flagged by J. Gove. To protect wetland areas located near the proposed new parking area, D. Genes suggested moving the Versacon building to that location and putting the parking spaces where the Versacon building is currently located. A meeting with DOT is scheduled and PZB is involved.

A. Tappan also reported that, by walking the boundary of the SELT property abutting the Rte. 125 property on which Dave Garvey had, some weeks ago, withdrawn his development application, she was able to confirm that wood frogs were breeding in the vernal pools on the Rte. 125 property.

**Confirmation of Select Board's appointment of Dawn Genes as Member:** D. Genes has been sworn in, and the LCC members are delighted to have her as a full member.

**LCC Bank Balance:** The balance in the Commission's account as reported by Treasurer Amanda Gourgue to B. Humm is \$15547.02 and is composed of

LCC Funds: \$12,904.48

Dave Allen Fund: \$ 2,643.54

**Easement Monitoring:** C. Fisher and A. Hartgerink monitored Short and Garrity Reserve easements. C. Fisher, A. Hartgerink and D. Genes monitored Riverside Farm easement. C. Fisher, A. Hartgerink, B. Humm and D. Shay monitored the Barth and Crosbie easements. With the exception of the Crosbie property, nothing of concern was noted with any of the easements. Ryan Crosbie took part in the monitoring of the easement on his property, and monitors discovered that a new neighbor abutting the property on its Epping boundary had made ATV trails which ran into the easement. Some tree cutting and rutted wet areas were noted. B. Humm sent a letter by registered mail to the abutter, describing the encroachment. R. Crosbie attempted to get in touch with the abutter, but had not yet been successful. Once the abutter has been contacted and a time arranged, B. Humm will walk the property with R. Crosbie and the abutter.

May monitoring visits are planned to Sanborn (5/8), Grumbling and Jenkins (5/15), Hutton (5/22), and Brady (5/29).

### **REPORTS:**

**Education/Outreach:** C. Fisher reported on the Frog Walks held on April 13 and the Earth Day walk on the 27. The weather was drizzly for the morning Frog Walk - perfect for amphibians, if not for five humans who braved the elements. By the time the evening walk took place, the weather was beautiful and 27 participants enjoyed an evening of singing wood frogs and spring peepers as well as getting excellent looks at egg masses. 20 people participated in the preschooler Earth Day walk and had a very enjoyable outing.

**Conservation Lands Management:** The LCC's "To Do List" was discussed. There are eight locations where maintenance and/or repairs need to be done. Members discussed these, ranking them in order of importance as follows:

**Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary:** Ranked very important is capping the potentially dangerous open spring. Less pressing are other items on this property's "to do" list. Members discussed the efficacy of repairing the fence vs. removing it, with the general consensus being that, as well as being attractive, the fence is useful in delineating the sanctuary's boundary. The uprights remain in good condition, and members considered the possibility of using composite boards, which are long-lasting and come pre-painted, for the cross pieces,. A. Tappan will speak to Chuck Cox regarding mowing the field which is overrun with brambles and will also continue her work on finalizing the management plan.

**Town Forest:** Ranked very important is the repair or replacement of the bog observation platform; a much used part of the Town Forest Complex, its deterioration impedes access and could potentially cause injury. D. Genes suggested that replacing this structure might be something that could be funded by LRAC's Small Grants Program. Other items cited in "to do" list have either been accomplished (dog waste stations), aren't yet necessary (refresh trail markers), or are out of our hands (finalize expanded CE). Unranked is the remaining item, posting "no hunting" signs; this has been suggested because an abutter reported seeing hunters on the property. While some posting has been done at the entrance to the transfer station and behind Mast Way School, the rest of the property is unposted. Signs must be posted no further than 100 yards apart. This would require purchasing signs and posting them high enough so that they cannot easily be ripped off, involving considerable effort on such a large property. With hunting season five months away, this is something that can be discussed further at a later meeting. Removal of deadfall, while not included in the list, is a perennial problem; C. Fisher reported a large fallen maple blocking the red triangle trail. S. Bugbee suggested contacting Steve Bullek about having it, and any future obstructions, removed.

**Little River Park:** Ranked important is the installation of a bridge at the stream crossing on the River Trail. The trail provides the only approach, within the confines of the park, to the Little River. Using logs and old planking, folks have, through the years, improvised their own crossings; these are far from satisfactory and there is the potential for injury. D. Genes suggested that the construction of a bridge could be another project that might be funded by LRAC's Small Grants Program.

Ranked of moderate importance is the control of black locust and a few invasives near the park's woodcock displaying area. All need to be cut and treated, and a licensed applicator is required. A. Tappan will check with Biospray re: cut stump work and basal fall treatment. This work is not pressing, but should be attended to when time permits.

**James Farm:** Ranked moderately important is maintaining the loop trail and rerouting a section that passes through a wet area. With the exception of those portions abutting residences, the trail is underutilized; improvements could encourage more foot traffic.

**Ellis Oyster River Reserve:** Ranked moderately important, the trail here needs quite a bit of maintenance (blazing, clearing), and professional assistance may be required to remove large deadfalls. This is another underutilized trail.

**Lamprey River Canoe Launch:** Ranked low priority, mainly due to the difficulties involved, is the removal of a large colony of buckthorn along the river's edge. Cutting may be the only solution as herbicides may be prohibited so close to the river.

**Old Mill Reserve:** Ranked low priority is the maintenance of the trail, which is in some places quite overgrown.

**Lee Five Corners Reserve:** Ranked low priority is the maintenance of the trail, a small section of which crosses private property; thus, the landowner's permission must be obtained or the trail must be rerouted.

After ranking the above items, members discussed the problem of finding an individual to do the carpentry work for such projects as capping the spring, building an observation platform and constructing a bridge. B. Humm will contact Randy Stevens to see if he is available, or if not, if he can suggest someone.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Clay Lane Proposed Timber Cut and Gravel Excavation:** Steve Bullek wants to cut timber prior to any excavation on the property. While this would not require a permit, B. Humm suggested that LCC

members should visit the site with S. Bullek and Caren Rossi, and at some time after that, schedule an additional site walk with the abutters. The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the excavation plans, and B. Humm suggests that both site visits occur before the hearing. He will contact both S. Bullek and C. Rossi, suggesting two or three dates and times.

**Posting of Trails on Town-owned Lands on Trail Finder:** B. Humm reported that Tim Moody has posted the trails on the Trail Finder website and will soon add photos.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Nomination of CC Officers: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer:** D. Shay nominated B. Humm for Chair; D. Genes seconded. D. Genes nominated C. Fisher for Secretary; D. Shay seconded. D. Shay nominated A. Gourgue for Treasurer; C. Fisher seconded. Voting will take place at the June meeting.

**Renewal of Southeast Land Trust Membership:** C. Fisher moved that LCC allocate \$300.00 to renew membership with SELT. A. Tappan seconded. Approved unanimously by members present.

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Small Grants Program:** Up to \$6,000 awarded to projects related to Lamprey River Conservation. There is no deadline, as projects are accepted on an ongoing basis. Projects should be completed within six months. Members discussed various possible projects that might be submitted (see Conservation Lands Management, above).

**Weyrick CC Files:** Vonny Weyrick brought a several boxes of LCC-related materials that had belonged to Dick. C. Fisher suggested that CC members hold a series of work sessions to sort through the materials - one box at a time - and that these occasional work sessions be held from late fall until early spring, the CC's less-busy time of year.

**LCC Meetings for June and July:** The BOS meets on the first Monday of both June and July, so meetings have been scheduled for the first Tuesdays of those months.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine Fisher