

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Meeting of June 4, 2019**

**Present Members:** Catherine Fisher, Dawn Genes, Bill Humm, Dave Shay, Anne Tappan  
**Ex Officio:** Scott Bugbee (Select Board Representative)  
**Guests:** Barb Wauchope, Thomas Paolera, Matt Cardin, Jennifer Codispoti

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Minutes of meeting of May 7, 2019 approved as written.

### **Updates and Announcements:**

**Town Center Vision Committee (TCVC):** S. Bugbee reported that the TCVC has received a mandate from the Select Board to explore three different possibilities for a municipal building: a one story structure; a two story structure; and a two story structure attached to the Parish house.

**LCC Bank Balance:** The balance of the Commission's account as reported by Treasurer Amanda Gourgue to C. Fisher is \$15,247.02 and is comprised of

LCC Funds:	\$12, 604.48
Dave Allen Fund:	\$ 2,642.54

**Easement Monitoring:** In May, C. Fisher, D. Genes, Antionette Hartgerink, and B. Humm monitored the Sanborn, Grumbling, and Hutton Easements. C. Fisher, A. Hartgerink and B. Humm monitored the Jenkins and Brady easements. Nothing of concern was noted on any of the properties. B. Humm reported that the issue of encroachment on the Crosbie easement remains unresolved. Ryan Crosbie has been unable to meet with the abutter. As there was no one present when delivery was attempted, the certified letter sent by B. Humm was undelivered; he has sent another letter by regular post.

June monitoring visits are planned for Little River Park (6/12), James Farm (6/19), and DeMeritt Hill Farm (6/26).

### **Reports:**

**Education/Outreach:** C. Fisher reported that a Tadpole Stroll will take place later in the month.

Folks will visit the Mast Way vernal pool and see how many different species of critters they can dip up.

### **Conservation Lands Management:**

**To Do List:** B. Humm reported that he had contacted Randy Stevens regarding the three "highest priority" projects on the list (bog platform, spring capping, bridge on the River Trail in Little River Park), but Randy is currently very busy and asked that the LCC check back in a few months. B. Humm contacted another handyman, but has had no reply as yet; he also contacted Steve Bullek (Highway Supervisor) to see if he knows of anyone.

**Capping Springs:** D. Shay reported that he knows of someone who might be able to cap the springs. S. Bugbee suggested posting on NeighborLee. B. Humm will contact Jim Griswold who, through his hydrology work, may know of someone who could do the work; he will also ask about sorting out which spring is being used by the homeowners.

**Bog Platform:** B. Humm will check into a local company specializing in aluminum docks.

**Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary:** A. Tappan reported that Ted Kendziora (USFWS) had heard from Southeast Land Trust (SELT) that the sanctuary is designated a "Forever Wild" property which may restrict plans to conduct habitat management in the area around the field. He requested a copy of the easement. A. Tappan reported that the words "forever wild" are included in the text of the conservation easement and that and that it does include conflicting language about what is allowed and what is restricted. B. Humm stated that SELT has been well-informed about, and not averse to, the LCC's plans to manage the property.

## **Old Business:**

**Clay Lane Proposed timber cut and gravel excavation:** D. Shay and S. Bugbee walked the site with Steve Bullek. They noted that there were quite a few red pines. S. Bullek said that any tree cutting will be done quite far from residences. Due to a family emergency, Caren Rossi was unable to attend; consequently, B. Humm C. Fisher and A. Tappan thought the site visit had been postponed. B. Humm will reschedule another site visit with S. Bullek and C. Rossi.

## **New Business:**

**Request for ZBA variance:** Thomas Paolera, 20 Northside Rd., Lee, wants to put in a full basement on an existing building which is 92' from the water (8' short of the 100' setback required by the Shoreline Conservation District). As the proposed rebuild will result in a change in elevation, a variance is required. The house is on a steep slope with some vegetation. C. Fisher suggested a drip line of crushed stone to catch roof runoff, and D. Genes recommended the DES webpage on catching storm water runoff, "Soak up the Rain". B. Humm explained that the LCC acts in an advisory capacity to the ZBA. A site visit to the property is planned.

**Eversource Pole Maintenance Project on Snell Rd:** Matt Cardin (Env. Permitting Coordinator) and Jennifer Codisoti (Siting and Construction Services), presented Eversource's plans to replace several wood poles with steel structures. Poles are scheduled for replacement in two wet areas that have been flagged by Marc Jacobs (Consulting Environmental Scientist), and a Special Exception Application has been filed. They explained the process by which pairs of weathered steel poles will be set either front of, or behind, the existing structures. Once the replacements are up, the old structures will be removed. DES guidelines for utility maintenance will be followed. Any ground disturbance will be restored and sod replaced and/or reseeded. Eversource employs the company Stantec, which will oversee weekly inspections to make sure the work is in compliance with DES regulations. They anticipate the work will require 1-3 weeks per structure. Members present agreed that the Commission is not opposed to the Special Exception requested and that no site walk was needed. Their application goes before the ZBA on June 19. A letter to the ZBA, including the information that Eversource follow the DES best management practices for utilities, will be prepared by A. Tappan..

**Possible ground-mounted solar array at Transfer Station:** Barb Wauchope (Energy Committee) presented a history of the Energy Committee's work with the company Revision Energy to install a solar array to offset the Town's electric bills. The size of the proposed array would be small (125 kw) and would roughly match the Town's use. The Town's main energy users are the Transfer Station and the Public Safety Complex (PSC), and any array will be situated near one of these sites. Due to safety concerns a ground array, though more expensive than a rooftop array, is mandated. A wooded area west of the PSC is being considered, but it is not a level space; while the area east of the complex is constricted by N. H. Electric Cooperative's power line, as well as the Weyrick chestnut orchard, B. Wauchope noted that Stevens Field would perhaps be an ideal location - close to the complex, flat and treeless. Two locations near the Transfer Station have been considered. The first, a former landfill capped in 1981, was rejected by Revision investors. The second, situated just inside the gate in the grassy area southeast of the station's main structure, is more promising; the area straddles Transfer Station property and Highway Dept. property. Should this location be selected, a section of the Town Forest trail system would need to be rerouted and quite a few trees would need to be cut. Whichever location is ultimately chosen, time is a factor, as solar tax credits will begin to drop beginning in 2020.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, July 8, 2019

Submitted by Catherine Fisher