

## **Lee Conservation Commission Minutes of Special Meeting of June 24, 2019**

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

**Alternate Member:** Deb Sugerman

### **Updates and Announcements:**

**ZBA:** A. Tappan reported that the ZBA had approved both Paolera variance and the Eversource Special Exception Application.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Education/Outreach:**

**Tadpole Stroll:** C. Fisher reported that there were nine participants at the 2nd Annual Tadpole Stroll held on Saturday, June 22. The weather was delightful and there were several participants who had taken part in prior LCC walks. Everyone had a great time.

#### **Conservation Lands Management:**

**Spring Covers at Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary:** Following water failure at the homeowners and ensuing difficulties with well companies negotiating the wet field in order to examine the spring, B. Humm conferred with hydrologist Jim Griswold, who suggested that, as the pipe from the spring may be corroded, and as no one knows where the pipe actually goes, the homeowners might consider getting estimates for having a well drilled on the house lot. Concurrent with the homeowners' water failure, a third well was located on the property; water from the springhouse flows down a gully to this well. Subsequent repairs to the check valve and pump maintenance restored water to the residence.

B. Humm reported that, in regards to covering the two springs, J. Griswold suggested that this might be something that Highway Dept. employees, Warren Hatch and Peter Hoyt would be able to do. B. Humm will write up a description of the work necessary and send it to Steve Bullek (Highway Dept. Supervisor), requesting the work be done by a few members of his crew, and that, should he deem it appropriate, the LCC would provide compensation. He will also speak to Julie Glover, to see if there are concerns regarding town liability and/or insurance issues. A. Tappan suggested that Bill Booth (Building Inspector) also be consulted.

**BioSpray Applications for Town Forest, Rothwell Reserve, and Joe Ford Wildlife Sanctuary:** B. Humm reported that S. Bullek remains a licensed herbicide applicator for the NH Department of Transportation and is still doing work for them on the weekends. In the past the Commission has used BioSpray to treat invasives in all of the above locations, and has been extremely satisfied with both the quality of the work and the costs involved. In the Town Forest, bittersweet remains a serious problem. At Rothwell Reserve, very little remains of the roadside stand of knotweed; A. Tappan reported that, within the Reserve, there are parent plants of a variety of invasive species, which are too large to be treated by foliar application. These will need to be cut back, and subsequent new growth treated. There may not be enough lead time remaining for CC members to do the work this year.. At Joe Ford, the roadside stand of knotweed, knocked back by previous herbicide applications, requires further treatment. B. Humm has signed permit application forms and is returning them to Bio-Spray in order that treatment of these areas can occur in the fall.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Clay Lane Proposed Timber Cut and Gravel Excavation:**

**Site visit:** B. Humm, A. Tappan, Caren Rossi, S. Bullek and Scott Bugbee made a site visit on June 18 to look at the walking trail and boundaries. The area where the excavation is planned is situated well away from both the trail and those neighbors who voiced concerns. For this type of work, disapproving abutters are granted a fifty foot setback; for approving abutters (this case, the approving abutter is the closest to the proposed excavation area), the setback is ten feet. S. Bullek informed those present that no work will be done this year, because the DES-required Alteration of Terrain Permit is very expensive (@ \$25,000), and therefore cannot be applied for until after being voted on by warrant article in March.

**Site walk with neighborhood residents in fall:** An autumn site visit with abutters is still planned. Humm suggested to S. Bullek and C. Rossi that it might be easier on the neighbors, if rather than clear-cutting, those trees designated for cutting be removed in stages. He also suggested that the walking trail be mapped with GPS, so that abutters can see, through aerial photography, where the trail is in relation to the area where the proposed excavation work will occur.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Formation of Bog Platform Committee:** Because of the difficulties inherent in constructing an observation platform in a wet, peaty bog, B. Humm suggested it would be useful to have a committee to look into which is the best route to pursue (some of the options being: wood platform with legs long enough to anchor the structure; floating platform; recycled composite decking; aluminum platform). C. Fisher, B. Humm, D. Shay, and D. Sugerman will form the committee.

**Advise BOS on CC Preferences on Possible Sites for Ground-mounted Solar Array:** At their July 1 meeting, the BOS will be asked to sign a Letter of Intent and Exclusivity Agreement between ReVision Energy Inc. and the Town of Lee. With a view to acting in an advisory capacity, LCC members looked at the three locations selected as possible sites. Should the Transfer Station Site (SE of the leach field) prove to be the preferred site, LCC members were not opposed to the substantial tree removal required as well as the relocation of a portion of one of the main trails leading into the Town Forest. A. Tappan pointed out that, generally, arrays are located close to the point of greatest use, which in this instance would be the PSC. The site west of the PSC is of uneven terrain and has an abutter who might not appreciate having an array so close. The site east of the complex, behind Stevens Field, seems to be best suited for an array, although C. Fisher voiced concerns about the vernal pool located along the site's eastern edge.

**Commission Contact Person (7/2-7/6):** While B. Humm is away, C. Fisher will be the contact person.

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

Submitted by Catherine Fisher