

DRAFT Lancaster Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Town Hall Second Floor - February 14, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Troy Merner, Nancy Southworth, Margy Hobbs, Sam Mayne, Kim Votta, Kathy-Jean Lavoie

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rachael Stuart

OTHERS PRESENT: None

INITIAL BUSINESS: Lavoie called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Lavoie introduced minutes for January 13, 2022 meeting. Mayne requested a revision of the attachment entitled “Final Recommendations”, details recommending communications to landowners regarding their easement properties. For the Southworth/Scobie easement, recommendation number 2, “Request that landowner submit in writing description and under the easement, hence no clarification is needed. A motion was made by Mayne that the recommendation “Request that landowner submit in writing description and purpose of seasonal mowing of fields”, is not included in any communications to the landowner. *Hobbs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

APPOINTMENT(S) AND PUBLIC HEARING(S): None

ONGOING BUSINESS:

2021 Easement Monitoring Final recommendations. Southworth recused herself from this discussion. Mayne indicated further research into the approval of the shed on Southworth/Scobie easement clarified that they were clear in their intentions regarding the shed and the LCC in prior meetings approved their request and the indicated intentions. As such, recommendation number 1, “Request that the landowner clarify in writing the purpose of the recently constructed shed” in the Final Recommendations for communications to landowners, should be removed. Mayne motioned that the final recommendations included in the letter to Southworth/Scobie should only include the following items:

1. Request that the landowner consider mitigation efforts to reduce impacts to birds likely to occur due to the large windows.
2. Notify the landowner that LCC may survey property to clarify in-holding boundaries (area excluded from conservation easement requirements).

Lavoie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

LCC Workplan Topics: Review 2022 Workplan and Calendar. The following project leads were established: Hobbs on Education. Southworth, Mayne and Votta will team-lead on Easement Monitoring, & Easement Documentation, Planning, and Stewardship. Mayne with Stuart on ARM Fund grant. Votta on the Indian Brook Watershed Wetlands Study. Merner on Town Clean-up Day. Plans were discussed to move the “Develop a Conservation Plan” to a later meeting agenda.

Heritage Trail - Mayne reported that work gaining approval from landowners is still ongoing, thought it has been stalled recently due to Lucy Wyman being out of town. Peter Riviere and Wyman had initially offered to ask the landowners for permission.

Invasive Knotweed Education and Eradication - Lavoie is collaborating with Jill Kilborn, who has possible access to hand-held GPS devices that LCC members may be able to utilize to track locations of invasive plants throughout town. Planning continues.

Town Clean-up Day- Merner emphasized that the Spring Clean-up will also be supported by the town and local service groups including Rotary and Lions.

Rain Barrels - Lavoie reported Stuart is collaborating with TGARB, a rain barrel manufacturer in MA. There's a minimum order threshold and LCC could work with other towns if we cannot meet that minimum.

Town Forest - Lavoie stated Stuart is the lead on this workplan item and would handle next steps. Merner suggested there would need to be a discussion with the Select Board.

Lavoie will update the workplan calendar to include Town Clean-up in May.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS: Lavoie shared the Eversource D142 Three-Week Look Ahead update.

OTHER BUSINESS: Treasurer's Report. Lavoie reported the 2022 budget presentation to the Budget Committee on January 11 was well-received.

Noting that there was no further business to come before the committee, a motion to adjourn was made by Merner. Mayne seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Payer, Clerk