

LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION (LCC) MEETING MINUTES-DRAFT

Town Hall Second Floor-December 13, 2021

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Troy Merner

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Payer

Stuart opened the meeting at 5:30.

APPOINTMENTS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Stuart introduced minutes for the November 8, 2021 meeting. There was no discussion. Lavoie motioned to approve and Votta seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- Eversource D-142 Line:** Stuart noted the Three Week Look Ahead updates from Eversource on the construction of the D-142 line. Southworth took a walk and indicated many red flags for wetlands all the way up the powerline.

- Easement Monitoring-** Southworth, and Maynes conducted a monitoring visit of the easement at the Town Water Department property. It was reported as being straightforward, they took pictures, there was no postage or signage on the boundary, and no changes noted. Southworth mentioned she had placed a call to invite water department supervisor, Tim Bilodeau who was unable to join them.

Votta and Southworth walked Colin Stowell property, 33 acres located on Martin Meadow Pond Road. This is bordered by the road, a scenic property, underdeveloped land and all boundaries are posted. Southworth noted that two neighbors had asked Stowell about clearing some trees to improve their views, noting they won't cut too many. On the left side across the street Stowell has another 9.9 acres that abut the Heritage Trail and is interested in putting it in conservation as well. Southworth noted she will contact Waystack to inquire about amending the original easement.

Votta and Southworth also monitored the Smith property, 182 acres on Pleasant Valley Road. There are concerns regarding the water quality in a pond located in the horse pasture as an electrical fence was recently removed. LCC will work with the landowner to mitigate the pond issue. The landowner has had two timber cuts completed with a third planned to develop high pastures for the cows. Votta suggested consideration of buffers between cuts and water areas, and possibly signage to indicate existing foot trail access. Maynes stated that high pasture is

valuable as long as the forest buffers between water and pastures are maintained. Next steps are putting all pictures and forms filled out and made into a word document. The four LCHIP easement reports will be sent to the State and copies of all will stay in the file here as well. Lavoie inquired about commission review and approval of reports. This will happen at the January meeting as well as discussion about landowner communication and possible expansion of the Stowell easement.

UPDATE ON ARM FUND:

Stuart and Maynes had a good virtual meeting with Lori Sommer at DES on 12/9/21. The deadlines are May 31 for a brief concept and August 31 for a full application. It was noted that applied grant funds roll over into the next three years if funds are not all granted in the first year.

Next steps include working with the town manager on 2022 budget request, connecting with the snowmobile club to discuss corridor five needs, begin discussions with neighbor landowners to gauge interest and concerns, and to reach out to potential partners who might be willing to become easement holders.

Stuart presented a proposal to encumber surplus funds in the 2021 budget to Elise Lawson to conduct additional wetlands and ecological studies required for the ARM Fund application.

A motion was made by Votta to encumbered \$4,400 remaining in the 2021 LCC town appropriation to contract with Elise Lawson. It was seconded by Lavoie. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

HERITAGE TRAIL STEWARDSHIP: Mayne walked the entire trail, and indicated the maps he created are already out of date. He will connect to Rob Christie in January to correctly map it out, trying to keep a part near the high school and the Mountain View Grand.

It was noted that Lucy Wyman and Peter Riviere are getting good results updating landowner permission for the trail on their land.

BUDGET: Lavoie reported on her discussion with the Selectboard about the 2022 budget, noting their support for the full functioning commission. The 2022 budget includes an increase for the Clerk role. Commission members all agreed it looked good and realistic. The next step is the Budget meeting in January, date to be determined.

A motion was made by Maynes to approve the town budget for 2022 and seconded by Southworth. It passed unanimously.

Southworth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hobbs seconded. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Payer