

LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION (LCC) MEETING
Town Hall Second Floor

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Racheal Stuart

MEMBERS PRESENT: Margaret Hobbs, Kathy-Jean Lavoie, Troy Merner, Nancy Southworth, Racheal Stuart, Linda Gilmore (Clerk)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Manager Ben Gaetjens-Oleson and public

Self Introduction of LCC members and those in audience

APPOINTMENTS and Public hearings : Stuart announced the appointment of Linda Gilmore as Clerk. This position is a non-voting member of the commission. Gilmore and Stuart proposed the use of Google Docs as a method to circulate minutes to commission members for comment as a replacement for emails. This is for correcting and updating drafts minutes only. Google Docs can also serve as storage for frequently used committee docs. It does not replace paper docs which are maintained by the town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Stuart introduced minutes for the June 14 regular meeting, the June 21 walk with Eversource representatives and the June 28 special meeting.

Lavoie motioned to approve all three minutes as presented. Hobbs seconded. A vote was taken and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Garland Brook: Discussion of how low the Brook, the town's water source, is getting. Questions for the town manager to clarify the long and short term role of the commission. Suggestions for future action included easement monitoring, community education, inviting Water Superintendent Timmy Bilodeau to hold a future meeting, commission to develop community education re: water conservation.
- Community Conservation Cohort Training Opportunity: Stuart reviewed her email request for commission members and community volunteers to attend this training. She and Gilmore will attend. Other volunteers will be sought.

ONGOING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Update on Eversource D142 Line: Stuart reported that the report had been submitted, with receipt acknowledged and the Selectmen informed. Discussion of possible issues with site clean-up based on the Vermont incident. That information will be forwarded to Sam Harris, Eversource Project Manager and Tom Tetreau (Stantec Engineering).

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- LCC Work Plan Reports
 - ARM Fund research/potential mitigation projects: Hobbs. Possible projects qualifying for applying for Fund grants include the purchase of land to conserve, conservation easements, removal of invasive species, revegetation and shoreline restoration, ecology/conservation education projects. Town manager discussed the Indian Brook watershed study. Possibilities of other funding through partnership with land trusts such as Nature Conservancy was discussed. Stuart asked Hobbs to prepare priority recommendations based on ARM requirements and input from commission members. Once the Commission has identified priorities, feedback will be sought from the Water Department, Selectboard and others.
 - Invasive Vegetation: Lavoie distributed and presented resource material on knotweed removal. Discussion of adding a knotweed project to an ARM grant proposal.
 - LCC Priorities for Land Conservation: Southworth requested that her report be postponed until August, as she had to leave the meeting.
 - Rain Barrel project presented by public member Rob Christie. Discussion of coordinating with the Extension Service and publicizing the use/availability of barrels at the Lancaster Fair. Christie will follow up with the Extension Service. Merner will invite Extension Service staff to a fall LCC meeting.
 - Elise Lawson NRI presentation: Stuart announced that Lawson will present her findings at the LCC August 9th meeting.

Reading of communications directed to Commission:

- Stuart presented that DES had approved an earlier Portland Pipeline Wetland Application. This results in \$108,000 in mitigation funds available for competitive grant funding. Stuart will review details and report back to the committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Nomination Recommendations: Letter of interest received from Kim Votta. ***After discussion, Hobbs motioned that Votta be appointed for the vacancy with the term ending in September 2024. Lavoie seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.***
- Selectboard Report- Merner noted nothing to report
- Treasurer's Report: Lavoie reported expenditures of \$522.85 for Elise Lawson fees and email subscriptions. 91% of the annual budget remains. She is working to correct incorrect charges of \$2,711 for 2018 and \$5,050 for 2016. She is waiting for confirmation of the source of the errors. She is working with town staff to update the Land Use Change Tax records and should be finished shortly. Stuart noted that \$2500 of

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the budget is allocated for education projects and asked for commission input on suitable projects, especially those related to existing work plan priorities.

Merner moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Hobbs seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Noting that there was no further business to come before the committee, a motion to adjourn was called for.

Lavoie motioned to adjourn the meeting. Hobbs seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Approved: xxxxxx

Racheal Stuart, Chair

Kathy-Jean Lavoie, Vice-Chair

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