

LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION (LCC) MEETING
Town Hall Second Floor Auditorium – June 14, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Racheal Stuart.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Margaret Hobbs, Kathy-Jean Lavoie, Troy Merner, Nancy Southworth, Racheal Stuart.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Manager Ben Gaetjens-Oleson and public.

Self-introductions of LCC members and those in audience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from April 12, and April 26 and May 10, 2021, meetings presented for approval. Hobbs motioned for approval. Southworth seconded. ***A vote was taken, and the motion carried.***

NEW BUSINESS

1. LCC Work Draft Work Plan. Stuart reviewed items. RSA 36 outlines committee obligations. Work plan is laid out by project and assigned to committee members who expressed an interest in that project.
 - a. Revised procedures manual: Presented at meeting
 - b. Locate and organize files: Stuart
 - c. Status of conservation fund: Lavoie
 - d. Education sessions
 - i. Natural Resources Inventory: Stuart
 - ii. Wildlife Action Plan
 - e. Easement Monitoring: Southworth
 - f. Eversource D142 Line: Stuart
 - g. Aquatic Resources Mitigation Fund: Hobbs
 - h. Prime Wetland Designation: Stuart. Discussion of getting a warrant on the town meeting agenda to allow Prime designations. Merner mentioned a new Extension Service employee as a resource.
 - i. Support for landowners in meeting state requirements: Lavoie
 - j. Invasives (part of mitigation) Lavoie
 - k. Land Conservation: Southworth
 - l. Suggested projects with no date:
 - i. Ongoing education
 - ii. Town cleanup day
 - iii. Volunteer recruitment
 - iv. Rain Barrels
 - v. Arbor Day
 - vi. Drinking Water Resources
 - vii. Increase in Land Use Change Tax %

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viii. Town Forest Management practices

PAUSE FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Rob Christie: mentioned Prime Wetland history 2006-2020. Discussion of the designation and how it is used, use of volunteers. Rain barrels potentially available at the transfer station.

Morgan Hill: question re pros and cons of prime wetlands designation, followed by discussion.

Town Manager: Town clean-up day can be coordinated with transfer station manager Brian Patnoe. Household hazardous waste collected annually. Next year, it will be more organized. Community organizations already do some clean-up. He will communicate with these organizations. Discussion of problem with large, bulky items. He will talk to Brian to get input.

2. Rules of Procedure: Racheal reviewed recommended changes and minor edits. Discussion re: 3C, 4, 6, 19. Chair's voting role clarified to specify that the chair votes last but does have a vote. Rules as amended motioned for approval by Southworth. Seconded by Hobbs. **A vote was taken, and the motion carried.**
3. Proposal: Elise Lawson NRI presentation with Town Boards/Public on August 9. \$250 has already been approved for her compensation as part of original contract in 2020. Discussion of venue. Welcome Center, Weeks and Fish and Game building discussed.
4. Easement monitoring: discussion of how to recruit volunteers. Southworth will follow up for next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Update on Eversource D142 Line Project. Original deadline of June 23 for filing report to DES has been extended by 15 days to July 7. Special meeting to review the report scheduled for Monday, June 28 at 5:30 p.m. Site walk scheduled for Monday, June 21 from 10 a.m. -1 p.m., virtual public input session scheduled for Tuesday, June 22 at 6:30 p.m. Stuart proposed the walk begin at the top of Weeks State Park, proceed to Wesson Road and to possibly end with lunch at town offices. Goal is to foster dialogue with Eversource. Discussion of concerns re: public access during and after construction. Eversource response to LCC questions distributed.
2. DES Meeting: Southworth discussed meeting with Eversource and DES. Mitigation \$\$ will not be available until the line project is complete. Committee needs to identify mitigation projects. Laurie Sommer, from DES, will help with application process. Discussion of need for ongoing contact/monitoring during construction.
3. Elise Lawson Letter Review and Recommendations: Presented and discussed. She will send the letter to DES on her own.

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4. LCC Meeting Time: 5:30 p.m. meeting time discussed. Hobbs motioned and Lavoie seconded that the time be changed. **A vote was taken, and the motion carried.**

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTED TO THE COMMISSION

DES – Portland Pipeline Application
DES – Eversource D142 Application (2)
Eversource – offer to cover costs of Elise Lawson application review
NH Audubon Society – Status of NH Birds Report

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nomination Recommendations:

Southworth will serve as the liaison from the committee to the Master Plan committee. Her appointment will be confirmed by the Planning Board. Discussion of duties and responsibilities, including Troy reporting to the Select Board. There are two open committee positions. Kim Votta expressed interest in re-joining LCC. She will be asked to submit a letter of interest.

Treasurer's Report:

Lavoie presented the Treasurer's Report. There is a balance of \$5,733,16. Hobbs motioned for the report to be approved as submitted. Stuart seconded. **A vote was taken, and the motion carried.**

Lavoie is working with Town Manager and Tax Collector to reconcile the Conservation Fund balance and LUCT payments. Anticipates talking to auditor next month.

Select Board Report (Merner):

None

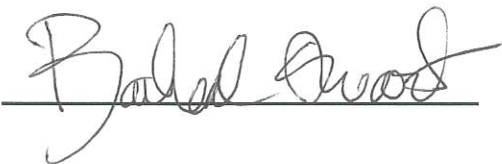
Noting that there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion was called for to adjourn.

Merner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Hobbs seconded. A vote was taken, and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Linda Gilmore, Acting Committee Clerk

Approved:

Racheal Stuart, Chair



Kathy-Jean Lavoie, Vice-Chair

