

**Lancaster Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Town Hall Second Floor – June 13, 2022**

Members present: Racheal Stuart, Kathy-Jean Lavoie, Vickie Gibbs, Kim Votta, Troy Merner, Sam Mayne

Members Absent: Nancy Southworth

Others present: Joel White, member of the public, Barbara Payer, Clerk

Initial Business: Stuart called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of minutes:

Kathy-Jean Lavoie made a motion to approve the May 9, 2022 minutes as written. Mayne seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Welcome Vickie Gibbs

Stuart noted that Vickie was appointed by the Selectboard at their May meeting. She is also a member of the Planning Board and is enthusiastic about representing the LCC and contributing to both Boards.

Conservation Land Stewardship Site Visit

Votta explained that the visit by the State agency that monitors LCIP and LCHIP easements is planned for July 20, to monitor LCIP easements held by the LCC. Jocelyn Duffy is the representative who will be conducting the visit. She will walk easements alongside LCC members Votta, Southworth and Mayne (tentative) who will be there representing the LCC.

Easement monitoring

Votta provided an update on the proposed follow-up site visit with the Peaslee Smith Farm Easement, which was a follow up to a letter sent and was scheduled in the Spring. Barb Smith is having a new forest management plan developed and prefers to follow up after this has occurred. The easement monitoring team will reach out to her in August.

LCC Workplan Topics:

Heritage Trail Update

Mayne asked for LCC input on the Northern Forest Center (NFC) proposed outreach to landowners on the Heritage Trail. The primary intention of the outreach is to gain landowner permission to work on the portion of the trail that crosses their land. As this outreach and relationship building in the community is a primary role for the commission, Sam will ask NFC to start by creating the database of landowners. The LCC will review this and decide on next steps

ARM Fund Application Update

Stuart reported the preproposal has been submitted and Lori Summer has acknowledged receipt. The LCC should hear this week if we are to be invited to submit a full proposal. August 31 is the deadline for the full proposal. Lavoie reminded the commission that the Selectboard only meets once a month in the summer so the proposal development needs to accommodate any review and approval needed from them. Stuart agreed to update the timeline and talk with Ben about any Selectboard review that might be needed.

Report on CISMA/Knotweed Public Meeting

Lavoie reported on the Invasives public presentation that was held on June 2 with Jill Kilborn and Rachel Cliché presenting on behalf of CISMA. It was well attended. Lavoie is moving forward with CISMA on the demonstration site at the transfer station which will include educational signage. Lavoie is scheduled to meet with Tim Brown of the Highway Department next week to discuss handling of knotweed along town rights-of-way. Funds are in the budget for education which could be used for signage for the knotweed demonstration projects.

Update on Town Forest Wetlands Assessment

Votta reported that Elise Lawson done two days of fieldwork for the wetlands assessment for the ARM Fund proposal. Southworth participated in the first day. Photos have been uploaded to the LCC Google Drive Folder. The final day of field work is scheduled for July 3rd.

Update on Town Forest Ecological Assessment

Stuart reported that the Northern Forest Center (NFC) sent an RFP letter to potential consultants. Julie Renaud Evans of the NFC and Racheal will review applicants and select a consultant by the end of June, and the work should take place over the summer and into the Fall.

D142 Line Three Week Look Ahead

Stuart reported that Eversource contractors are currently working between North Road and Page Hill Road, working 7 days a week, replacing poles and reconnecting wires. This area includes the Page Hill Wetlands and Town Forest where a lot of our assessment work is happening.

Treasurers report-2022 budget update

Lavoie presented the budget and noted planned expenses.

Master Plan Committee report

Votta-attended last week and noted that MP committee members were given materials relating to housing, natural resources, and transportation. Stuart reiterated the importance of integrating LCC workplan priorities such as the Heritage Trail, Town Forest, Invasives and important wetlands. Votta agreed to report back on opportunities for LCC to provide direct input.

Planning board report

Stuart noted the importance of more integration with other Town boards. Going forward we have an opportunity for Vickie Gibbs to raise LCC concerns at future Planning Board meetings. Gibbs and Stuart reported on a recent Site Plan Review by the Planning Board. The proposed site is on an aquifer adjacent to the Connecticut River and the LCC encouraged the Planning Board to require professionally developed drainage plan.


Noting that there was no further business to discuss, Gibbs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm. Votta seconded. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Payer, Clerk

Approved July 11, 2022



Racheal Stuart, Chair



Kim Votta, Vice Chair