

Lancaster Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Town Hall Second Floor - March 14, 2022

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Troy Merner

OTHERS PRESENT: None

INITIAL BUSINESS: Stuart called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Stuart introduced minutes for February 14 2022 meeting. There was no discussion. *Lavoie motioned to approve, and Maynes seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

NEW BUSINESS: Stuart presented the suggestion that the LCC interface with other Town boards and committees, including the planning board, master plan committee, and zoning committee. She explained the need for the two groups to work together on certain projects will raise awareness, and promote engagement for collaborations.

It was decided that out of the three current members of the Master Plan Committee, Lavoie will resign, and Votta will remain on as alternate, with Southworth maintaining a regular member representing the LCC.

LCC Workplan Topics:

ARM Fund Application Update was provided by Maynes. He explained the current timeline of the project while pointing out the overall goals are to make sure the wetlands, Town Forest and Watershed continue to function well with the benefits being water quality, decrease flooding in residential areas, provide protection of habitat, and improved access to residents to enjoy hiking, hunting, and snowmobiling. Votta added that Elise Lawson, wetlands scientist will be conducting a detailed assessment of the wetlands over the summer, and will provide a required report by the end of summer. Stuart added that a meeting with Leon Rideout, Selectman is scheduled, and she has already met with Shane Beattie, Selectman, who was very supportive overall and willing to introduce residents and land owners in partnership.

Brainstorm on Education was led by Hobbs, who has spoken to Ed Samson, former Town Manager and current President of the Lancaster Fair, regarding LCC having a table on display at the Fair in September with a demo of a rain barrel available. The possibility of an appearance at the Street Fair in July, the transfer station on a Saturday, and the Farmers Market gauged interest. The committee discussed the need to have information printed up and available to offer to residents at these events.

Hobbs indicated the possibility of reaching out to the local high school, WMRHS, to get the younger students interested in what the LCC is currently doing in the community.

Lavoie inquired how the LCC portion on the town website was coming. The goal is to gain access to provide residents with resources, documents and information listed. She also offered placing an ad in the local paper, a press release, such as in a Community Chat section regarding updates on the Heritage Trail or the LCC wetlands.

Update on 2022 Town Forest Harvest was led by Stuart. She explained that the 2nd planned cut this year by Greg Ainsworth has currently experienced trouble with wetlands and thus was halted for the time being. The revenue as a result is expected to be low at around \$20,000 +/- this year, compared to approximately \$40,000 last year.

Reading of communications directed to Commission: D142 Line Three Week Look Ahead (TWLA): Stuart will flag when they are moving into the Page Hill Wetland area in Lancaster. Current work near Page Hill involves the Northumberland region.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nomination recommendations: Southworth and Maynes recused themselves. *A motion was made by Lavoie, and seconded by Votta, to renew of 3-year terms (4/22-3/25) for LCC members Southworth and Maynes. The motion passed unanimously.*

Stuart thanked them both for their ongoing hard work and involvement as members of the LCC.

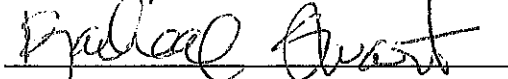
Invasive Knotweed Education and Eradication: Lavoie reported that CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) is considering Lancaster as a demonstration to assist with managing Japanese knotweed along the Israel's River. The next step is a tentative site visit along the River Walk in late April or early May with a possible mechanical control before the knotweed grows too big.

Treasurer's Report: Lavoie announced the 2022 appropriation of \$6,248 was approved. She also reminded the members that the \$4,400 encumbered funds from 2021 will be used for the upcoming contract with Elise Lawson. Stuart thanked Lavoie for her ongoing dedication and work surrounding the current budget.

Noting that there was no further business to discuss, *a motion was made by Lavoie to adjourn the meeting. Southworth seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Payer-Clerk



Racheal Stuart, Chair

04/11/2022



Kathy-Jean Lavoie, Vice-Chair

Nancy Southworth