

LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION (LCC) MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT
Town Hall Town Hall Second Floor – November 8, 2021

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Rob Christie, Lucy Wyman, Peter Riviere (members of the public)
Also attending Ben Gaetjens-Oleson, Town Manager.

Stuart opened the meeting at 5:30, noting this is the first meeting of 2021 with a full sitting Commission.

APPOINTMENTS and Public hearings: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Stuart introduced minutes for the October 11, 2021 Meeting. There was no discussion. ***Southworth motioned to approve and Mayne seconded. Votta, Southworth, Mayne, Hobbs and Stuart voted in favor, Merner and Lavoie abstained, and the motion carried.***

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- Eversource D-142 Line: Stuart noted the Three Week Look Ahead updates from Eversource on the construction of the D-142 Line. Prep work is underway in Lancaster. Votta asked Stuart to continue to send the TWLA that comes just prior to monthly LCC meetings.
- Heritage Trail Stewardship: The Selectboard was presented with work being done by Sam and Abby Mayne and indicated support. Stuart proposed that we add stewardship and maintenance of the Lancaster portion of the Heritage to the LCC work plan with Sam Mayne as LCC lead. Essentially, we as the LCC are invested in the Heritage Trail and will support the efforts of community members to reclaim the Lancaster portion of the Heritage Trail.
 - Public Comment: Riviere said that signage is a critical missing piece that will be needed. It would be good to connect to XC ski trails across from the high school, which would expand the XC ski trail network available on the high school grounds. Wyman noted that the trail from Bunker Hill, essentially to Page Hill Road is a mess. Needs work. She can connect with Sam and Abby to share her ideas. Christie suggested Sam connect to Jared Cape, representative of the Whitefield group. Also suggested that we pursue budget money from the town – now is the time since Town is building next year's budget.
 - Sam noted that the current vision has been to push forward with the limited resources available. Now that they have LCC approval, Sam will reach out to public members interested in this ongoing work.

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- Hobbs suggested being mindful that some review of sensitive species may be needed, particularly if we reroute and/or start bush hogging.

Hobbs motioned that LCC put maintenance and stewardship of the Lancaster portion of the Heritage Trail on the LCC work plan; Merner seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

- Easement Monitoring: Southworth reported out on easement monitoring walks of three properties: Ben Southworth and Kirsten Scobie, Nancy Southworth, and Paul and Ann Haslanger.
 - The monitoring was conducted by a team of Southworth, Mayne and Votta (LCC), and community volunteer Kate Hartnett. The purpose and use of certain structures and recreational resources still needs to be clarified with the property owner and noted in the file. The intent is to document agreed upon uses to ensure they are not amended without proper notice to the LCC. Stuart suggested it is important that we clarify purposes of structures, etc. *and* whether they are in accord with the easements or not.
 - Christie reminded LCC that it is its role to monitor and report to the Town and the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). He also noted that the Christie easement upper pond was initially created for waterfowl flyway purposes. This should be included in that file.
 - Lavoie asked about Southworth's role in the process. Southworth clarified that she was present but that the monitoring and report are being done by Mayne and Votta to avoid conflict of interest.
 - Next steps: Clarify specific purpose and use of shed and other structures on B. Southworth/Scobie easement; Clarify pond and field maintenance on N. Southworth easement; Address other items noted during site walk; File report.
 - Southworth noted that she is in process of lining up monitoring visits with remaining LCC Easement landowners.
- ARM Fund Application: Stuart reported that a case statement had been completed with input from Mayne, Southworth and Hobbs. She is in touch with Lori Sommer at DES to discuss various project components.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Wetlands Education Opportunity: Stuart shared a DES educational flyer about NH Wetlands regulations. She suggested posting the flyer in town hall and perhaps a few other places, a small step toward increasing our efforts in wetland protection education. LCC members agreed.

Reading of communications directed to Commission: None

OTHER BUSINESS

- Nomination Recommendations: None
- Selectboard Report: None
- Treasurer's Report: Lavoie presented a 2021 Budget update and also a proposed 2022 Budget for discussion with the Selectboard on November 17th. There is approximately \$4,000 remaining in the 2021 Budget. Lavoie explained the LCC has until the end of the calendar year to expend these remainder funds, but we should not spend funds just to spend them. Stuart noted several possible uses for the remaining funds that could help leverage ARM funds in 2022. Stuart has reached out to Elise Lawson about additional wetlands delineation, and several surveyors about a boundary survey for the Town Forest.
- NH Association of Conservation dues are up for renewal. This has been budgeted for and will be processed.

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

Merner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mayne seconded. A vote was taken, the motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Approved: December 13, 2021

Racheal Stuart, Chair

Kathy-Jean Lavoie, Vice-Chair
