

Mon. June 5, 2023 - Leverett Conservation Commission meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Julia Firl, Voting member
Joan Deely, Voting member
Gail Berrigan, Voting member
Jono Neiger, Voting member

Mitch Mulholland – FLP
Bridget Likely – Kestrel Land Trust
Macaylla Silver
Courtney Jane Brown

Meeting Start Time: 7:02

Topic 1: Kestrel Land Trust: “Heronemus”/Depot Rd. conservation restriction (CR) approval to meet state grant deadline of 6/30/23.

LCC Actions Needed:

- Review revised (now state-reviewed) CR document; note addition of driveway as a “Special Use Area” and changes to utility access easement
- Review Baseline Documentation Report
- Review Survey
- Con Com signatures due NLT Friday, 6/23/23.

Minutes: review back from DCS, but they are swamped with applications due to end of state FY; LCC will sign first (before legal team reviews; any major changes will need fresh signatures from LCC and Selectboard. Joan did not review yet. LCC cannot vote outside of meeting.

Driveway is now designated as “Special Use Area”. 2 Powerline corridors (Eversource and National Grid) cross property; they approached KLT to secure second access point from Long Hill Rd that would be less destructive to land. BDR is still in progress by Charlie; 1 LCC will need to sign BDR.

Gail motion to approve, subject to minor edits to be provided for consideration. LCC approves the substance of the CR. Joan 2nd; all in favor.

Topic 2: Friends of Leverett Pond: proposal to hire OnPoint Aquatic Consulting, LLC (Bregieta Arvidson) to conduct annual full-pond weed surveys as third-party consultant. The Order of Conditions for 200-0196 states that both FOLP and the LCC approve of the consultant. FOLP approves. Letter and Brea’s qualifications shared with LCC on 5/30/23. LCC Action Needed:

- approve and send Mitch confirmation by E-Mail.

Minutes: Proposal for weed harvesting in July. OC requires 3rd party weed survey of entire pond. SWCA did 2022 survey. FOLP received very high bid from SWCA to do 2023 survey, so searched for additional bids. Mitch provided Brea’s resume and qualifications to LCC via email. Survey will cover same area of pond, with slight changes to be able to calculate total areas of (instead of % of quadrads). Survey will be all plants but focusing primarily on invasives. Excel spreadsheet will be provided. Dates of survey will be

15-25th of June... could a LCC member attend? FOLP plans to attend July LCC meeting to present findings. Jono and Julia might be able to drop in during survey dates. Mitch will let us know. Jono worried about accuracy of GPS... Mitch will check on what Brea will do to correct for error. Julia motion to approve hiring; Gail 2nd; all in favor.

Follow up questions from Mitch: can we meet at the cattails to talk about thinning them out by hand? Try to do cattail visit at the same time as wetland survey. Gail not available until very end of June. Cattail is blocking view. Fire Dept needs access to water for fire safety. Coordinate AFTER survey, with member of Town, Fire Dept, LCC, etc. Recommending removal of <200 sq. ft. Blocking hydrant/pump; public safety issue. Only need to post to public for actual veg management. Let Mitch know via email next date of LCC meeting.

Topic 3: Address questions regarding removal of burning bush around Leverett Pond. Can this be done without further permissions/approvals? Who manages invasives on land owned by the Town?

Minutes: FOLP has managed fringe of pond in the past. Pond is under CR, owned by Town; Julia to pull file for CR for Friendship Trail to see if there is a veg management plan.

Topic 4: Property for sale @ 312 Long Plain Rd. (Julia Firl)
Schedule site visit to property for sale @ corner of 63 & Juggler Meadow (\$100k for 8.23 acres). Follow up on idea of asking Eversource to acquire this for the Town as mitigation right-of-way expansion. Realtor is Courtney Jane Brown-Lippencott

Minutes: Current owner not interested in “preparing” lot for sale (survey, perc test, cleared driveway, house site) so it may sit on the market for a long time. Estimated habitat property on Mass Mapper. Thoughts on how to advise the seller? Site visit for July 5th @ 10 or 12:30. TBD.

Topic 5: Approval of May Minutes. Mail. Other items not anticipated.

May minutes deferred to next meeting (Jono left early, so no quorum); Joan needs to get re-access to Gmail; proposed July 3rd or July 17th. Ask Seth and Jono which date works.

Julia motion to adjourn, Gail 2nd, all in favor.

Meeting End Time: 7:58

Minutes recorded by Julia Firl, voting member.