Meeting Minutes, Lancaster Conservation Commission
Monday, August 12th, 2024

Board members present: Sam Mayne, Vickie Gibbs, Mike Webster, Nancy Southworth
Members of the public speaking: Robin Irving, Rachael Stuart, Michael Nadeau, Lucy Wyman

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

Mayne moved to accept the May minutes, Webster seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Stuart gave an update on ongoing trail work on the town forest and Heritage Trail. Stuart requested that the LCC create a subcommittee to continue trails work now that the Northern Forest Center was winding down their operations in Lancaster. Several members expressed concern about adding a subcommittee when filling the Commission itself has been challenging. Mayne questioned the value it would bring versus the additional effort to follow open meeting law, considering trails work and management of the town forest are both already responsibilities of the LCC under the existing workplan.. Webster volunteered to be the point person for trails work and work with Stuart as a volunteer as part of our existing trails objective in our work plan. Sam made the motion that we support this arrangement to have Webster lead trails work with Stuart also acting as a volunteer on behalf of the LCC.

Wyman mentioned the DOW(sp?) shade tree fund 3-year cycle is coming to an end and could be used for tree planting. LCC asked that Wyman return with a specific proposal and it would likely get LCC support.

Mayne explained that Ben & Kirsten Southworth had submitted a boundary survey that shows that recent emergency septic work was completed outside of the easement inholding. All wished to support a compromise to ensure easement purposes were met without undue burden on the landowners. All also agreed that we would need to do annual monitoring as usual and if the easement terms are in conflict we should recommend in our monitoring report a compromise solution. N. Southworth and Mayne will conduct easement monitoring as planned.

Mayne explained that the ARM fund grant proposal had become too burdensome to manage and asked if there were any objections to turning down the funding. None were voiced.

N. Southworth updated LCC on discussions about the town forest. She said the Town Manager had asked her to get a clear plan from ACT and bring it back to her. She was generally supportive.

Irving asked where to find meeting minutes to post to the town website, as there are minuted missing starting in October 2023. Sam said he would share the minutes he had and check with Heidi Chester, the previous LCC clerk to see if there were others available.

Sam moved to adjourn at 7:00, N. Southworth seconded and the motion passed unanimously.