Meeting Minutes, Lancaster Conservation Commission
Monday, September 9th, 2024

Board members present: Sam Mayne, Vickie Gibbs, Nancy Southworth
Members of the public speaking: Robin Irving

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Southworth moved to accept the August minutes, Gibbs seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Irving updated LCC on comments from the Selectboard about the ARM fund. The Selectboard is worried that returning funds will hurt the chances of the town being awarded funding in the future. Mayne stressed that based on budget estimates, there is not enough funding available from the ARM fund to complete the deliverables DES asking for. The application budget was made assuming additional funding from other grant sources, which have not fully come through. ARM staff also stated that they would assist in finding additional funding if there was a budget shortfall, which also has not been the case. Mayne agreed to attend the next Selectboard meeting to discuss directly with the selectboard.

Mayne requested approval to submit another application to the Moose Plate grant for 2025 similar to the one submitted and completed this year. Mayne moved to approve that Mayne create and submit a grant proposal, Gibbs seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

LCC discussed the budget request for next year.

Mayne moved that LCC request 10% of all Land Use Change funds raised, as has been the case in previous years. Southworth seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayne suggested keeping the LCC budget line item levelly funded, but to reallocate funds to priority areas. Gibbs suggested increasing the education budget for informational postings about invasive species treatment and town forest trails in addition to the No Mow May signs. Mayne agreed and added informational signs about the riparian restoration project at LES. All discussed increasing the line item for a clerk for the Commission to attract more candidates, since the clerk position has been difficult to fill. Gibbs suggested asking for the same amount as the Planning Board who has a clerk that may be able to clerk our meetings as well. Gibbs also suggested increasing funding for work on town forest trails, and all agreed. Mayne suggested cutting several areas where funding had not been used at budgeted amounts in the past and all agreed. Mayne moved to approve the budget request as discussed, Gibbs seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that the October and November meetings fall on holidays. All agreed to move them to the Tuesday following the normal meeting day, pending confirmation from town staff

about other events. All also agreed it might make sense to cancel the meetings if there are no agenda items.

Gibbs moved to adjourn at 6:19, Southworth seconded and the motion passed unanimously.