Meeting Minutes, Lancaster Conservation Commission
Tuesday, October 15th, 2024

Board members present: Sam Mayne, Vickie Gibbs, Nancy Southworth, Mike Webster
Members of the public speaking: Robin Irving, Racheal Stuart, Kate Hartnett, Lucy Wyman

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

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

Stuart requested that LCC contribute $3,750 from the 2024 budget to assist in completion of the Heritage Trail from Rt 2 to Reed Rd. This would create a continuous trail system from downtown to Weeks State Park. Mayne asked to confirm that landowner permission was secured in all sections and that trail construction would be sited away from flowing water where possible, which Stuart and Gibbs confirmed. Stuart presented a document showing expenses so far on Lancaster trails, showing that 94% of funds spent thus far have been from non-town sources, and 83% of funds for completion this fall would be non-town funds. Vickie moved that LCC contribute $3,750 to the completion of the Heritage Trail between Rt 2 and Reed Rd, the funds to come out of the unspent funds in the education, clerical, and contracted services line items. Southworth seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mayne reminded Stuart to follow town procurement policies.

Wyman asked that the LCC support in trail maintenance of a trail following the railroad bed along the Israels River. Mayne informed her that LCC does not have jurisdiction over that trail and suggested she contact the landowner about maintenance.

Mayne summarized completed and planned work for the LES riparian restoration project.

Mayne described the Long Island Sound Study, and how it could impact future grant applications for projects in Lancaster. He presented comments he made through his work at Essex County NRCD and asked if LCC would be interested in making comments. All were supportive of Mayne submitting comments on LCC's behalf stressing the importance of extending grant funding to the entire Connecticut River watershed so that upstream towns like Lancaster can access funds.

Gibbs moved to adjourn at 6:27, Mayne seconded and the motion passed unanimously.