Meeting Minutes, Lancaster Conservation Commission
Monday, April 14th, 2025

Board members present: Sam Mayne, Vickie Gibbs, Nancy Southworth, Kathy Jean Lavoie (OBO Leon Rideout)
Other present: Robin Irving-Land Use Coordinator, Jordan Garrett, Sam Sabean

Meeting opened at 1734H

Nancy Southworth moved to approve as written the January 13, 2025 minutes. Vickie Gibbs seconded the motion. All members voted to approve as written the January 13, 2025 minutes, none opposed, Kathy Jean Lavoie abstained. *Motion passed.*

LUC Irving discussed concerns about work being done on the trails by the trails group that is subject to Conservation Commission approval. Two issues raised by Trailblazer Shane Beattie was h1) having bog bridges in the middle of the trail, and 2) having a sign installed in the middle of the trail. Vickie Gibbs responded that the bog bridges were installed specifically with spacing so that the groomer would be able to pass. The sign's location should have been preapproved. Irving stated that the projects, or at least the oversight of funds, should be managed by the CC. A budget with expenditures and proposed expenditures should be submitted to the CC for their meetings. Some next steps for the trails: AMC training days, completing the last section(s) of the trail, perhaps installing signs regarding delicate fauna (to be eligible for Take Action for Wildlife funds), getting wildlife corridors on GIS

Sam suggested a project of 'pull your own' native plant gardens or pollinator garden installations. The goal of preserving spaces for pollinators would go hand in hand with No Mow May wherein some areas could be not mown at all. The area around the Transfer Station could be a wildflower garden. Linda Gilmore has a master gardening project on Water Street as an example.

Priority projects for CC: Easement Valuations

Looking at the budget for investment in different initiatives; making sure encumbrances are made if necessary

Nancy Southworth mentioned that around May 12th would be the Ammonoosuc Trust (LCHIP) visit—she encouraged the group to attend

Update re SWPG: Sean Sweeney to approve. Wetland restoration (e.g. woody debris) design is next. It is likely that implementation cannot be pursued in-house but CC could partner. Jordan Garrett said that they just completed planting a the school fruit trees in the area (apples and plums); this may be a project for other areas in town.

Both Sam and Nancy are submitting requests for term renewals. Everyone agreed to forward the recommendation(s) to the Board of Selectmen for appointment. LUC Irving instructed Sam & Jordan to submit emails or letter of interest to her if they would like to join the CC.

Sam moved to adjourn at 1842H. Nancy seconded. No one opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

By: Robin L. Irving
Robin L. Irving, Land Use Coordinator for the Lancaster Conservation Commission

Approval Date: 5/12/2025