**Lenox Conservation Commission**

**Landuse Meeting Room**

**October 4, 2018**

**Minutes**

**Members present:** Chair Neal Carpenter, (NC); Joseph Strauch, (JS); Vince Ammendola, (VA); David Lane, (DL); Dick Ferren, (DF); and Mark Smith, (MS)

**Absent with notification:** Rose Fitzgerald Casey, (RFC)

**Staff present:** Peggy Ammendola, Land Use Clerk, (PA)

**Others present:** Ken Kelly of Lenox Land Trust

The meeting was recorded.

**Jess Toro, Native Habitat Restoration-Discuss proposal for Habitat Management Grant for eradication and control of invasive species at Post Farm.**

Ms. Toro suggested that the Commission agree to go for a grant for Post Farm unless there is another property with a higher priority. She feels that the tall heavy invasive edge should be mowed down with a forestry mower and when the invasives start to grow back they can be treated with herbicide. Less herbicide will be used when the plants are young. The wetland edge would not be touched.

DL asked about Foot Hill Farm, aka the Taylor land on the east side of Undermountain Road now owned by the Town which could benefit as well from eradication and control of invasives. Ms. Toro said that it was possible that this property could be combined with Post Farm in applying for a field and grassland rehabilitation grant. She said that grants can be a minimum of $10,000.00 and a maximum of $50,000.00. In the event that the combined total for the two properties went above $35,000.00, the level of funding the grantors are more comfortable with, there could be an option to include it in with a Parson’s Marsh in a later phase of funding.

Ms. Toro will work with the Land Use Director/Town Planner, Gwen Miller to develop the proposal and estimate which will be submitted in the coming week. The grant, if approved, will be for the first phase, and the likelihood of a second grant is favorable because of having received the first grant. Ms. Toro said that this project rates well for a grant because its ranking criteria, e.g., open space land, Wildlife Management Area, Chapter 61 land, rare species habitat, and permitted hunting. The grants would be awarded in December and work could proceed at the beginning of January depending on the weather. Work would have to be completed by the end of June. The Commission agreed that Ms. Toro should more forward and apply for the grant.

**Other Business:**

* Copies of the Forest Management Plan for Post Farm were given to the Commissioners and Mr. Kelly.
* Site Visit-72 Plunkett-Wednesday, Oct. 10th at 9 AM. RDA for septic system.

**Approve Minutes:** *September 20, 2018-*JS made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. DL seconded the motion and the Commission voted to approve 6-0.

DF made a motion to adjourn. JS seconded the motion and the Commission voted to agree 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Ammendola