

Land and Community Heritage Investment Program

Board of Directors Meeting

NH Fish and Game Dept. 11 Hazen Drive, Concord

Monday, June 20, 2022 2:00 – 4:30pm

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members: Colin Cabot, Chick Colony, Rich Cook (2:20pm), Bridget Freudenberger, Dick Lewis, Amanda Merrill, Rep. Andy Renzullo, Susan Slack, Rep. Judith Spang, Ben Wilcox

Non-voting Members: Scott Crowder, Susan Francher, Shawn Jasper, Jim Oehler, Pierce Rigrod

LCHIP Staff: Paula Bellmore, George Born (Zoom), Ben Engel, Katie Midolo, Cassie Bernyk

OPENING

Chair Ben Wilcox called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm, and welcomed new member Bridget Freudenberger to the Board. Following introductions, Wilcox congratulated Susan Francher on her impending retirement and thanked her for 16 years of service to LCHIP. Wilcox presented Francher with a framed print of the Birch Ridge Community Forest in New Durham.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOTION	To move FY23 Administrative Budget discussion to end of the agenda	Rep. Judith Spang
SECOND		Mandy Merrill
VOTE		Approved unanimously

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of April, 04 2022 BOD Meeting and 2023 Board Meeting Schedule*

Proposed Schedule for Board Meetings 2023*

MOTION	To ACCEPT the minutes from the April, 04 2022 BOD Meeting and the proposed 2023 board meeting schedule	Colin Cabot
SECOND		Mandy Merrill
VOTE		Approved unanimously

PROJECT REQUESTS

Pletcher Farm, Warner* - Land Conservation Specialist Ben Engel explained that Five Rivers Conservation Trust is acquiring a conservation easement on 118 acres of an active farm in Warner and requests approval to include language in the easement deed allowing the landowner the right to temporarily post against public access when a biological threat is known and where this action would likely prevent or reduce the possibility of transmission. Engel pointed the Board to RSA 227-M:15 I which defines the LCHIP public access requirement and allows the

LCHIP Authority (the Board) to limit use on a “case by case basis” under certain circumstances. Engel clarified that, if this provision is not allowed and such a threat were to occur, the farmer would be required to submit a request to limit access to the LCHIP Board for approval, and that, given LCHIP’s quarterly board schedule, this could result in a delay of as much as three months, or require an emergency board meeting. Engle informed the Board that staff is working closely with the Comm. Jasper and the State Veterinarian at the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food (DAMF) and with LCHIP’s legal counsel, Sr. Asst. Attorney General Aslin at the Department of Justice to draft language that is consistent with best agricultural practices while remaining consistent with the purpose and intent of the LCHIP statute.

Commissioner Shawn Jasper spoke in support of the request. After discussion, the following motion was made, seconded, and approved:

MOTION	APPROVE use of the reserved right as described for working farm projects, subject to approval of final language by Dept. of Justice and DAMF.	Colin Cabot
SECOND		Susan Slack
VOTE		Accepted unanimously

Picadilly Farm, Warner* - Requesting Second Extension to June 30, 2023.

Engel summarized a request from the Monadnock Conservancy, which is acquiring an easement on 22 acres of an active CSA farm in Winchester for an extension of the grant expiration date, explaining that the recipient expects to complete the project in early 2023. Engel informed the Board that a draft easement is in development and an appraisal is scheduled.

After discussion, the following motion was made, seconded, and approved:

MOTION	APPROVE the request to extend the grant expiration date for Picadilly Farm award to June 30, 2023.	Mandy Merrill
SECOND		Chick Colony
VOTE		Accepted unanimously

GRANT ROUND 21 (2022)

Grants Coordinator Katie Midolo gave a brief presentation on the status of Grant Round 21.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair Wilcox reviewed the current committee membership, encouraging members to join and/or recommit to membership on a committee. Following discussion, FY23 committee membership was established as follows:

- Executive Committee: Ben Wilcox, Susan Slack
- Nominating Committee: Ben Wilcox, Susan Slack, Amanda Merrill
- Finance Committee: Ben Wilcox, Susan Slack, Colin Cabot, Chick Colony, Bridget Freudenberger

V = voting member of LCHIP board; NV = non-voting member of LCHIP board; NB = not an LCHIP board member

- Historic Resource Advisory Panel: Colin Cabot (V), Chick Colony (V), Dick Lewis (V), Ben Wilson (NV), Jim Garvin (NB)
- Historic Resource Review Panel: Colin Cabot (V), Chick Colony (V), Ben Wilson or designee (NV). Additional members to be announced.
- Natural Resource Review Panel: Rich Cook (V), Judith Spang (V), Pierce Rigrod (NV), Jim Oehler (NV), Patrick Hackley (NV). Additional members to be announced.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

May, 2022 Finance Report - Bellemore presented the May 2022 Finance Report to the Board.

MOTION	ACCEPT the May, 2022 Finance Report	Colin Cabot
SECOND		Dick Lewis
VOTE		Accepted unanimously

Request from Treasury to transfer LCHIP Appropriation*- Bellemore reviewed a proposal from the State Treasurer regarding the potential transfer of funds appropriated to LCHIP for grant making purposes from Treasury to an LCHIP-managed bank account. The discussion was tabled to the next Board meeting pending additional input from the Department of Justice.

Proposal for Managing Trust Fund Appropriation*- *Due to her affiliation with Bangor Savings Bank, Bridget Freudenberger recused herself from the discussion and left the room.* Bellemore presented two options for insuring LCHIP bank balances exceeding the FDIC insurance limit. The Board supported Bellemore’s recommendation to secure a Letter of Credit through Bangor Savings Bank. Bellemore will obtain the LOC. *Freudenberger returned to the room.*

Approve FY23 Administrative Budget- Bellemore presented the FY2023 administrative budget for approval. After a brief discussion, the following motion was made, seconded, and approved.

MOTION	APPROVE FY23 Administrative Budget as presented.	Susan Slack
SECOND		Chick Colony
VOTE		Accepted unanimously

Following approval of the budget Bellemore requested clarification regarding limits on line-item expenditures. The Board agreed with Bellemore’s understanding that the Executive Director had authority to expend up to the total amount approved, but that exceeding budget for any individual expense line total by more than 10% would require notification to the Executive Committee.

Chair Wilcox reminded the Board that the next meeting would be on Tuesday, September 20th at the Meredith Public Library. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Bernyk
LCHIP Operations Coordinator

Ben Wilcox
LCHIP Board Chair