

LCHIP

Land & Community Heritage
Investment Program



Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
NH Fish and Game Headquarters, Concord
Amanda Merrill, Board Chair
Thursday, November 14, 2019
Minutes – Approved at January 27, 2020 BOD Meeting

Attendance

Voting members: Colin Cabot, Doug Cole, Chick Colony, David Danielson, Bob Giuda, Harold Janeway, Dick Lewis, Mandy Merrill, Susan Slack, Judith Spang, Ben Wilcox
Nonvoting members: Jared Chicoine, Susan Francher, Shawn Jasper, Jim Oehler, Pierce Rigrod, Brad Simpkins, Stephen Walker, Ben Wilson
Review Panelist members: Amy Dixon, Paul Doscher
LCHIP Staff: Barb Beers, Paula Bellemore, George Born, Kristen Powell, Dijit Taylor

Introductions

Mandy began the meeting by thanking all of the Review Panel members for their hard work. She also offered special thanks to Harold Janeway who is stepping off the Board after many years of valuable service. Harold was given an LCHIP vest in appreciation of his contributions.

Minutes of September 24, 2019 BOD Meeting

A typo related to the BOD packet was identified, but no changes to the minutes were proposed.

MOTION	To accept the minutes from the September 24, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting.	Harold Janeway
SECOND		Colin Cabot
VOTE		Approved unanimously

Update on Trust Fund and CCE -provided in Board Packet, but not discussed

Trust Fund (income):	Jul - Oct 2019	\$1,510,440	Jul - Oct 2018	\$1,437,096
CCE (balance):	Oct 2019	\$5,265,619	Oct 2018	\$4,462,987

Shawn Jasper reported that logistic and legal issues prevent using the \$250,000 provided by the legislature to the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Foods for agricultural land preservation to support farm projects in this year's LCHIP applicant pool. The new funds may provide future match for LCHIP funds as well as federal Farm bill funds.

Grant Selection

Conflict/Information list Prior to the meeting, Board members, LCHIP staff, and review panelists completed conflict of interest forms concerning all projects, applicants, and town of applicant proposals. A printed list of all reported conflicts was provided at the meeting. Dijit provided an oral summary. The LCHIP Conflict of Interest policy allows board members with conflicts to stay in the room during discussion to provide information, but bans them from voting on motions for individual projects with which they have a conflict. (Voting on groups of projects that include one with conflicts is allowed.)

LCHIP 2019 Grant Round Areas of Conflict and Information		
xxxxx means reports no conflict or information		
Meeting Attendee	Conflict(s) of interest	Information item(s)
Paula Bellemore	xxxxx	PLC (member, former staff, volunteer monitor)
Barb Beers	xxxxx	5RCT member & volunteer easement monitor, Concord resident
George Born	xxxxx	Member of NHPA, lives in Concord
Colin Cabot	Donor to Parker Noyes Project, major donor to NHPA	Issue with Steve Fifield projects in: Bow, Lower Gilmanton, Grafton Member of SPNHF, 5RCT, LRCT
Paul Doscher	On PLC Stewardship Committee	Member of Forest Society (and former employee), PLC, TNC Board member at state TU & Basil Woods, funders for Bethlehem project
Sen Bob Giuda	xxxxx	State Senator for Alexandria, Grafton, Meredith, Tilton and Wentworth
Harold Janeway	On the Board of Directors and donor to Northern Forest Center	
Amanda Merrill	xxxxx	Member of Forest Society (Bethlehem), SELT (Newmarket farm), NHPA (block grants)
Jim Oehler	xxxxx	Works for NHF&G which plans to provide \$ for Bethlehem and Gilsum projects
Susan Slack	xxxxx	The RPC she works for includes towns in the applicant pool: Alexandria, Belmont, Gilmanton, Meredith, Tilton, Tuftonboro and Wolfeboro, but RPC has no connection to any of the projects.
Dijit Taylor	xxxxx	Member of SPNHF, 5RCT and NHPA
Steve Walker	On Stewardship committee for PLC	Member of: TNC, SPNHF, PLC. OSI will monitor Surry and Bethlehem projects, already monitors abutting properties in Mason, Rindge & Boscawen
Ben Wilson	NHPA Board member	xxxxx
The following meeting participants reported no conflict or information issues: Jared Chicoine, Doug Cole, Chick Colony, Dave Danielson, Amy Dixon, Susan Francher, Shawn Jasper, Dick Lewis, Kristen Powell, Pierce Rigrod, Brad Simpkins, Judith Spang, Ben Wilcox		

Finance Committee recommendation

Detailed information about funds available for grant making and other financial needs related to the available revenue was provided in the Board Packet. This included setting aside an estimated \$350,000 for the Community Conservation Endowments and an estimated \$240,000 for FY 2021 administrative costs. There were no questions.

MOTION	To accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to expend up to \$3,500,000 for grant awards in this grant round, setting aside an estimated \$350,000 for the CCE and \$240,000 for FY 2021 administrative costs.	Doug Cole
SECOND		Dick Lewis
VOTE		Approved unanimously

Project Deliberations

Process overview

Dijit thanked the Review Panel members and noted that they

visited 51 different applicant sites. Review Panel members scored each application on a 100-point scale based on selection criteria in the *LCHIP Guidelines*, then used a related rubric to assign each project one to five stars. Dijit opined that the evaluations of these highly qualified professionals should not be overturned lightly. The Board may incorporate selection criteria not used by the Review Panels: geographic distribution, distribution of natural, cultural and historic resources, and existing state priorities.

Project names, towns, and review panel scores and recommendations were displayed at the front of the room, organized according to the Review Panels' star ranking scores. The Board's task was to consider projects in each ranked category, allowing for discussion of each project, as needed, and moving from the top ranked to the lowest ranked projects. Provisional decisions made category-by-category were adjusted throughout the day, with a final vote at the end of the day for the determined amount of funding for each project.

Projects Considered Board members discussed specific details of individual projects. Several general, but key, discussion points came up as projects were discussed:

- The need for balance between conservation and other desirable land uses, including housing. Legislative studies on this issue are currently underway;
- Conservation organizations are now using advanced GIS and other sophisticated technologies to help determine highest land conservation priorities;
- How much is handicap accessibility an appropriate part of historic restoration?
- How to ascertain whether a project is in keeping with LCHIP's mission.
- In future grant rounds, Board members would like to know which projects under consideration are being guided or supported by a NHPA/LCHIP block grant.

Motions followed discussions, adjustments and reallocations

MOTION	To approve funding amounts and projects as below	Dick Lewis
SECOND		Doug Cole
VOTE		Approved unanimously
Town, Project Name	Amount and Project	
Belmont, Belmont Library (2)	\$13,335 to the Belmont Public Library to assist in repointing exterior mortar on the front and northeast side of the building.	
Bethlehem, Ammonoosuc River Project	\$300,000 to the Forest Society for acquisition of ~257 acres in Bethlehem, and approve Forest Society's anticipated conveyance of a conservation easement to NH Fish and Game.	
Boscawen, Morrill Dairy Farm	\$85,000 to the Forest Society for acquisition of an agricultural land easement on ~115 acres in Boscawen	
Bow, Crossroads Community Church	\$12,250 to the Crossroads Community Church to assist with shutter repair and installing a drip edge, but not painting	
Chesterfield, Stone House Tavern Museum	\$95,000 to the Chesterfield Historical Society to assist in rehabilitating the Stone House Tavern	
Dunbarton, Koerber Family Forest	\$100,000 to the Five Rivers Conservation Trust for acquisition of a 133-acre conservation easement in Dunbarton.	

Gilmanton, First Baptist Church	\$81,600 to the Gilmanton Historical Society to assist in rehabilitating the Lower Gilmanton First Baptist Church
Gilsum, Surry Mountain Forest	\$400,000 to the Nature Conservancy for acquisition of 1368-acres in Gilsum, and approve conveyance of an anticipated conservation easement to NH Fish and Game.
Gorham, Gorham Congregational Church	\$16,250 to the Gorham Congregational Church to assist in rehabilitating the tower of its historic church building, with the proviso that the weathervane be gilded instead of painted.
Grafton, Grafton Center Meetinghouse	\$150,000 to Mascoma Valley Preservation to assist in stabilizing and rehabilitating the Grafton Center Meetinghouse.
Grantham, Sawyer Brook Headwaters	\$215,000 to the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust in support of the Town of Grantham's acquisition of 385 acres in Grantham, subject to a conservation easement held by ASLPT.
Hinsdale, Hinsdale House (2)	Waive the requirement in the LCHIP Guidelines that a grant for restoration / rehabilitation projects be no less than \$10,000 and award \$5,000 to the Hinsdale Historical Society to assist in re-shingling only the main house.
Lancaster, Parker J. Noyes	\$176,000 to the Northern Forest Center to assist in rehabilitating the Parker J. Noyes Building in Lancaster.
Lee, Tuckaway Farm - Emerson Tract	\$73,000 to the Forest Society toward acquisition of an agricultural land easement on 36 acres in Lee.
Loudon, Pearl Farm	\$270,000 to the Trust for Public Land to support the acquisition of an agricultural land easement on ~279 acres in Loudon by the Town of Loudon through its Conservation Commission.
Mason, Spaulding Brook Headwaters	\$200,000 to the Piscataquog Land Conservancy to support its acquisition of ~274 acres in Mason.
Moultonborough, Castle Tower (4)	\$51,828 to the Castle Preservation Society to assist with rehabilitating the Castle's North Tower, with the proviso that mortar be formulated based on an appropriate analysis of existing and historic mortars.
Newmarket, Clarke Farm	\$150,000 to the Southeast Land Trust of NH for acquisition of an agricultural land easement on 180 acres in Newmarket.
Newmarket, Newmarket Community Church	\$22,500 to the Newmarket Community Church to assist in structural repairs in the Fellowship Hall (northeast corner) and the sanctuary directly above, plaster repair in the sanctuary related to that structural work, and limited to that area, rehanging the existing front doors and adding additional stabilization and bracing to the roof of the education wing. Total Project Cost estimated at \$45,000.
Newport, Newport Opera House	\$87,750 to the Town of Newport to assist in rehabilitating the Opera House, to include repairing interior and exterior masonry, installing maple flooring, repairing or replacing stair treads, stairway landings and exterior handrails, finishing floors, and addressing storm water drainage issues.
Portsmouth, Moffatt-Ladd House (3)	\$58,765 to the National Society of the Colonial Dames in the State of New Hampshire for rehabilitating masonry at the Moffatt-Ladd House and the adjacent Counting House
Portsmouth, South Church	\$86,000 to Portsmouth's South Church to replace the existing slate roof and repoint masonry
Rindge, Rindge Stone and Gravel	\$175,000 to the Town of Rindge for acquisition of 360 acres, contingent upon conveyance of a conservation easement to the Monadnock Conservancy or another qualified organization.

Somersworth, Furber Chapel	\$30,000 to the City of Somersworth to assist in rehabilitating the Furber Chapel in Somersworth.
South Hampton, South Hampton Baptist Church	\$16,165 to the South Hampton Baptist Church to assist in rehabilitating its historic church building
Statewide, NHPA Planning Grants (8)	\$60,000 to New Hampshire Preservation Alliance to continue funding a block grant program. NHPA will re-grant moneys to eligible entities to help commission preservation plans for community landmarks.
Stratford, Marion Blodgett Museum	\$56,750 to the Cohos Historical Society to assist in rehabilitating the Marion Blodgett Museum
Sutton, South Sutton Meetinghouse	\$52,500 to the Sutton Historical Society to assist in rehabilitating the tower of the South Sutton Meetinghouse
Tilton, Tilton Town Hall Study	\$19,350 to the Town of Tilton to assist in commissioning an Historic Building Assessment
Tuftonboro, Mt. Pleasant	\$75,000 to the Lakes Region Conservation Trust to support the acquisition of 132 acres in Tuftonboro.
Wentworth, Wentworth Congregational Church	\$175,000 to the Wentworth Congregational Church to assist in rehabilitating its historic church building
Winchester, Center Church	\$75,000 to the Town of Winchester to assist in rehabilitating the tower of Center Church in Winchester
Winchester, Picadilly Farm	\$125,000 to the Monadnock Conservancy for acquisition of an agricultural land easement on 22 acres in Winchester.

MOTION	To decline funding for the following projects: Alexandria Town Hall, Shedd-Porter Library (Alstead), Brentwood Meeting House Study, Claremont City Hall/Opera House, Dimond Hill Farm (Concord), Epsom Meetinghouse (2), Fitzwilliam Town Hall, Smith Meetinghouse (Gilmanton), Kensington Congregational church, Dana House (Lebanon), Frost Free Library (Marlborough), Meredith Public Library, Milan Agricultural Gateway, First Baptist Church (New London), All Saint's Church Potting Shed (Peterborough), Langdon House Accessibility Planning Study (Portsmouth), St. John's Church (Portsmouth), Rye Town Hall, St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea (Rye), Mt. Caesar Union Library (Swanzey), Tilton Mansion, Brewster Academic Building Study (Wolfboro), Libby Museum (Wolfboro)	Dick Lewis
SECOND		Bob Giuda
VOTE		Approved unanimously

Results are confidential until Grant Award Announcement event 12/4/19.

Public Comments - none

Adjourn: 2:37 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Monday, Jan 27, 2020 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (snow date Friday, Jan 31) Forest Society, Concord NH

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara A. Beers
LCHIP Office Manager

Amanda Merrill
LCHIP Board Chair