

# CONNECTICUT RIVER CONSERVANCY

Land Conservancy Program subcommittee  
Minutes of May 3, 2018 meeting  
VIA Conference call

ATTENDEES: Dave Hewitt, Ron Poltak, Ed Gray, Bob Moore, Humphrey Tyler  
STAFF: Andrew Fisk

## AGENDA

- A. Overview of pending LCP activity and program
- B. Spaulding Pond & dam reconstruction
- C. Marlborough & Haddam properties – sale or gift

## MINUTES

Andy briefly went over the LCP program, the CRC's holdings, the current Board directive to transfer and dispose of properties.

The Committee then reviewed and discussed the memo and background material provided by staff regarding the Spaulding Pond property. There was discussion regarding the status of the dam repairs, the size of the pond, the location of the cabin owned by the in-holding family, and the current status of discussions with the family. Several of the committee members have been part of the various board discussions on this property over the years, while several committee members were new to this committee or the board.

There was discussion about whether there is an obligation to repair the dam, to which staff replied that there is no specific requirement in the deed or easement (held by Aton Forest) to maintain the Pond. In addition there was discussion as to whether the eventual failure of the dam, or its removal, would have an adverse impact on the character of the property or the intent of Frank Egler to create a "mini-wilderness." There was discussion about the recent appraisal of the property and its valuation of \$1,500 / acre.

The committee recommended that the Board not accept the present offer of the current owners of the cabin, as outlined in the letter sent by Attorney Donohue, and further they recommended that staff put the dam reconstruction project on hold until such time as the family agrees to take title to the reconstructed dam. As there is little risk of the dam failing catastrophically and no downstream risk should the dam eventually fail there is no urgency to continuing with the reconstruction project.

The committee also asked staff to explore whether the property could be marketed as a conservation purchase by a philanthropist interested in conveying the entire property to a conservation entity or hold it in its permanently conserved state meeting the intention of the donors.

Prepared by Andrew Fisk  
Reviewed by Dave Hewitt