

Town of Deerfield NH Conservation Commission
Jan 10, 2011 Minutes

Present: Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden, Diane Thompson, Frank Mitchell (volunteer)

Members Absent: None

Visitors:

Peg King Park: Scout Moe Gerow (Deerfield Community Church Boy Scout Troop #138) presented plans for the construction of a footbridge over the brook at Peg King Park as part of his Eagle Scout project. Oversight is currently being provided by the Town Building Inspector and Road Agent, along with their submission of a permit application to DES. DCC members expressed their appreciation of Moe Gerow's efforts and offered assistance as needed on possible wetland regulatory issues.

Kay Williams easement timber harvest: In the absence of Patrick Kenney, Jeff Eames of Fort Mountain Companies was present to answer questions related to the proposed forest management plan for the Williams Conservation Easement. Although the plan provided a good evaluation of the property, DCC members raised several issues/questions: (1) The plan clearly specifies the total timber volume currently on the property, but does not clearly indicate how much timber will be removed with the proposed harvest; (2) The long-term goals and outcomes for the property are not clearly articulated in the plan; and (3) The plan says that the harvest will increase the amount of skid trails, giving access to all parts of the property for ATV use. However, Mark Williams indicated this is not an intended outcome or goal of the harvest. The DCC suggested that Patrick Kenney review the Open Space Plan as it relates to the Kay Williams property. The DCC also requested that the plan follow the requirements of the Conservation easement, and be reviewed by a third party (e.g., UNH Cooperative Extension) to assess whether the plan is consistent with the language of the Conservation Easement.

Trail Guide: Jim Deely was not present for discussion on the progress of the trail guide.

Cottonwoods Easement Enforcement: Four residents of Cottonwood Estates and a representative of Northwood Crankpuller's Club were updated on Serita Frey's consultation with the town attorney regarding easement enforcement and liability concerns expressed at the December meeting. Town Council confirmed that the language of the conservation easement authorizes the construction of a barrier (gate) and that owners would bear no liability for injuries incidental to its installation or presence. Additional discussion followed regarding dumping issues, placement of the gate, restricted and required access, enforcement issues, town authority, and interpretation of and DCC responsibility to enforce the language of the easement. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to submit a recommendation to the BOS to accept the Northwood Crankpullers' offer to install a gate. DCC suggests that the BOS send a joint letter with the DCC to the Crankpuller's Club accepting their offer, requesting gate keys for the Deerfield Police (DPD) and Fire Dept (DFD), with copies of the letter to DPD, DFD, and Planning Board. The BOS should also confirm with DPD that they have authority to enforce the easement conditions for no motorized travel or dumping, etc, and coordinate with NH Fish & Game. In addition, a number of the property owners have requested written notification from the BOS confirming a waiver of liability.

DCC Files: Judy Marshall updated the members on the documentation and archive projects. DCC members will meet on February 14 at 6 PM to review the file inventory. Judy was offered and accepted the DCC's proposal to assist with clerical duties related to meetings and other DCC related activities.

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New Mbr: Herb McKinney was accepted by acclamation as a new member of the DCC. A request for his appointment to a three year term will be submitted to the BOS for approval.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the December 2010 minutes as amended.

Financial Officer's Report:

The current balance of the Conservation Fund as of 12/31/10 was \$359,330.68.

Contributions received in memory of Wadsworth Winslow were submitted for deposit. A list of donors will be sent to the family and acknowledgments to the donors. A note of appreciation will appear in both the Forum and the Communicator.

The 2011 Budget was discussed. It was moved, seconded and approved to reduce the 2011 budget from \$3200 to \$2401 reflecting the removal of an \$800 expenditure that would occur prior to Town Meeting and therefore could not be authorized since it was not a "typical budget expenditure" by RSA definition.

Strategic Planning Update: No Report

Land Conservation:

The DCC is waiting to hear from Dan Kern regarding the McGarry easement grant

Serita Frey spoke with the town attorney who revised the language of the 2011 warrant article.

Two market analyses for the Boisvert property, submitted by Frank Mitchell, were briefly reviewed. This property, which will be a Land Sale, was evaluated by Frank Mitchell, Serita Frey and Herb McKinney and found to be above average in terms of forest condition. A summary appraisal is needed.

Regulated Wetlands: No Report

New Business: The photo for the annual report was postponed

Old Business: None

Announcements and Correspondence: The BOS has requested a meeting with all town land management committees on January 31 at 5:30. Subsequent quarterly meetings should be a positive step toward opening lines of communication.

Adjournment: 10:15 PM

The draft minutes were prepared and submitted by Judy Marshall. Final revisions to these minutes will be contained in the minutes of the following meeting after approval by the Deerfield Conservation Commission.