

Conservation Commission - Town of Deerfield, NH
April 11, 2011 Minutes

Present: Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden, Herb McKinney, Diane Thompson

Members Absent: Wes Golomb

Visitors: Mark Parquette, Michel Corriveau, Tom O'Brien

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the March 14, 2011 minutes as written.

Financial Officer's Report: Erick Berglund submitted reports for both the February and March Conservation Fund activity. The February closing balance of \$360,627.04 reflects a deposit of \$945 from Wadsworth Winslow memorials and February interest of \$55.31. The account earned interest of \$61.26 in March resulting in a closing balance of \$360,688.30. The only operating budget expenditures in March were for part time clerical services. Acknowledgments for the Wadsworth Winslow memorials have been mailed and a list of donors has been sent to Mr. Winslow's daughter; however, there has been no specific direction from the family for the use of the funds which, to date, total \$2125.

Land Conservation:

Cottonwood Estates: Comments by visitors from Cottonwood Estates were preceded by a summary of the history of Cottonwood's conservation easement, violations and subsequent proposed remedies (see January DCC meeting minutes posted on the town website for details). Serita Frey referenced e-mails she had received, generally commenting on the location, favorability and visibility of a gate, and one from a neighboring property owner inquiring about horseback riding on the easement, however, the DCC has received no alternate plan from Cottonwood Estates residents outlining how to effectively deal with the issue. She also noted that certified letters mailed to Douglas and Anne Fallon, Jason and Allison Paradis, Charles and Robin Sargent and Robbert Van Der Bijl and Dana Sartain in March, were returned to DCC by the post office as *unclaimed*.

As a follow-up to his attendance at the March 14th meeting, resident Mark Parquette outlined his concerns and suggestions in a written response to the DCC's March 11th certified letter sent to all residents of Cottonwood Estates. Resident Michel Corriveau indicated that he had personally e-mailed residents regarding the meeting. Comments on what the visitors felt were the primary issues included the problem of multiple access points, vehicles circumventing the proposed gate, parking issues, safety/liability concerns and resident violators. They agreed that the proposed gate, along with the posting of informational and safety warning signs, would be a good first step toward both passive regulation and active enforcement by the Police Department and Fish and Game. More clearly defining the specific uses of the property and determining locations for additional gates could be topics for future discussion. Absent any apparent interest in the formation of a Homeowners Association, Erick Berglund suggested involving resident volunteers to walk the boundaries with DCC members for the annual easement monitoring.

Following the discussion of this issue, the DCC confirmed their plan to proceed with the motion as outlined in the January 2011 minutes. Serita Frey will inform the BOS of DCC's intention to formally endorse and act on the January motion to "*submit a recommendation to the BOS to accept the Northwood Crankpullers' offer to install a gate*". In addition, she will contact Don McMurchy of Northwood Crankpullers to set up a meeting with Mr. Parquette, Mr. Corriveau, Mr. O'Brien and any other residents interested in participating in a joint decision on the placement of the gate and appropriate signage.

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Project #25: Erick Berglund will obtain the format for the letter to be used in soliciting bids for a surveyor.

Project #26: We now have a list of appraisers to perform the summary appraisal on this parcel needed to formulate a bid. Serita feels that we should move quickly in order to secure our interest in the property and has asked that members be updated prior to the May meeting of any progress made. The same approach that was used to obtain the Freese property should be followed and the owners should be informed of the parameters.

Town Forest Protection Project:

The next step in permanently conserving the properties named in Warrant Article 11 will be to solicit quotes from land conservation organizations for the services necessary to complete this project (legal fees, stewardship fees, surveys). Serita will contact Frank Mitchell for guidelines on how to proceed.

New Business: DCC received an e-mail from Leslie Boswak, Deerfield Town Administrator, regarding the April 16th "Take Care of Your World" town-wide cleanup in celebration of Earth Day. It was informally decided that DCC members would take part on an individual basis.

Serita Frey has contacted Steve Jamele requesting a more prominent link to the DCC monthly agenda. She has received a number of comments on its lack of visibility.

Kate Hartnett and Serita Frey gave brief explanations of a self-directed home energy audit each had performed using a worksheet to arrive at a home's net energy usage with a goal of arriving at net zero energy consumption in 20 years. Serita suggested that we could partner with the Energy Committee and schedule a workshop to promote energy awareness. Erick Berglund also presented details of a program sponsored by PSNH, using a grant to partially fund energy saving alterations made based on a professional home energy efficiency audit.

Erick Berglund summarized the status of the Northern Pass project and suggested that the DCC take a position on the issue. This will be on the agenda for the May meeting and members were encouraged to become knowledgeable prior to drafting a written opinion.

Old Business: Members were informed that the Curry property has never been included in the annual monitoring and it was suggested that Al Jaeger could perform the first walk with a volunteer or small group of individuals interested in taking on the project in the future. Herb McKinney volunteered and will make the necessary contacts (Frank Mitchell, Al Jaeger) to coordinate a walk, and Kate Hartnett will contact Greg Doane to solicit his assistance. Notification will be made to the owners prior to the walk.

Adjournment: 9:00 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.