

Conservation Commission - Town of Deerfield, NH
June 13, 2011 Minutes

Present: Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden, Herb McKinney, Wes Golomb

Members Absent: Diane Thompson

Visitors: Mark Parquette, Don McMurchy, Mark Tibbetts, Dawn Genes

Approval of Minutes: The April 11th and May 9th minutes were unanimously approved.

Financial Officer's Report: Erick Berglund submitted financial reports for the months of April and May. At the end of April the Conservation Fund balance was \$368,133.67 reflecting a net increase of \$7445.37. Interest and a donation in memory of Waddy Winslow further increased the balance to \$368,201.58 at the end of May. Expenditures in the amount of \$418.60 reduced the balance of the operating budget to \$1982.40

We have been informed that the budget process for 2012 has begun and that our estimates for operating fund line items are due by the end of June, with all other variables expected by the end of September. We have requested to postpone meeting with the BOS until after July 11th in order to allow sufficient time for discussion at our next meeting.

Land Conservation:

Cottonwood Estates - Don McMurchy (Northwood Crankpullers) and Mark Parquette participated in the discussion finalizing plans for installation of the gate at the entrance of the Cottonwood Estates easement. Mr. McMurchy reported on the dimensions and types of materials he anticipated using in its construction. Warning signs will be placed 60 to 70 feet in advance of the barrier and the use of reflective materials on the gate and posts will serve as safety precautions. Mr. McMurchy anticipates the timeline for installation to be approximately one month and will inform Serita Frey when he is ready for the lock and signs. Fire Chief Mark Tibbetts was in agreement with the placement of the gate in relation to the fire pond and will be given keys for access, as will the Police Department. Mr. McMurchy will inform NH Fish and Game Conservation Officer Mike Matson of our plans. Kate Hartnett suggested placing information about the easement and its uses in the Communicator and working with Mark Parquette and the residents to organize an easement monitoring group.

Lamprey River – Dawn Genes, Project Coordinator of the Lamprey River Nomination Committee updated members on the successful nomination of the Lamprey River and its tributaries into the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Act, now signed by Governor Lynch, is designed to protect segments of the Lamprey, North Branch, Pawtuckaway, North, Little and Piscassic Rivers as they flow from the Lamprey's source at Meadow Lake Dam in Northwood, to Great Bay Estuary where their collective 47-mile journey ends.

Nominations are currently being taken for a local advisory committee representing towns in the watershed. The deadline to submit candidates for consideration is August 9th and will be publicized in the Forum. Serita will approach the Board of Selectmen for their input and place discussion of potential nominees on the agenda for the DCC July meeting. Dawn Genes provided some background on a video currently in the making entitled "What is a Watershed and Why Should You Care". She also acknowledged Alex Cody's efforts to protect the watershed by reducing salt usage at strategic points along the river.

Project #25: Erick Berglund will join Dan Kern and Dave Linden in a meeting with the property owners which should precede a survey of the proposed easement. Bids for the survey ranged from \$3200 to \$13,500 with Knight Hill Land Surveying being the potential low bidder.

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Project #26: Erick Berglund informed the group that the Summary Appraisal from Heath Appraisal Services for this easement has been completed. He will be calling the property owners to obtain a signed agreement to the terms of payment for the appraisal. He will also be requesting a check be drawn on the Conservation Fund for \$400, representing DCC's share (50%) of the cost of the appraisal. A motion to allow the expenditure was approved unanimously. Erick will note any significant issues contained in the actual report and a discussion of an offer based on the property's potential will be on the agenda for the July meeting. Frank Mitchell will be invited to attend and Serita will inform the owners of our plans. Kate Hartnett felt a look at Deerfield's Open Space Plan would be of value in relation to this parcel.

Strategic Planning: Serita Frey updated the group on the progress the DCC has made toward goals formulated at its last Strategic Planning Session in June of 2009. It was decided that the group would meet in July to focus on its long-range plans.

Old Business: On May 20th, Herb McKinney, Frank Mitchell, Al Jaeger and volunteers Dawn Holloway and Judy Marshall accompanied owner Paula Duchano to perform the monitoring of the Curry easement. Herb indicated limited access to the northwest corner made the boundary lines inaccessible. Although motorized vehicles have been using the power line right of way, there did not appear to be any off-road activity on the easement itself and no activities counter to the easement were noted. Additional time will need to be allocated to complete the monitoring and to prepare the paperwork for the state.

Herb McKinney also reported on the joint meeting of conservation commissions in Raymond on May 18th. Some ideas presented at the meeting were having a visible presence and encouraging community involvement in conservation activities through written communications and presentations throughout the year, not just at elections. A written summary of the statistical information compiled from the questionnaires distributed prior to the meeting will be discussed at DCC's July strategic planning session.

Kate Hartnett and Erick Berglund will jointly draft a letter stating the DCC's opposition to the Northern Pass Project. Erick will also submit his own separate comments in response to points listed on the Northern Pass website and encouraged other individuals to add their commentaries to the DCC's response.

New Business: Kate Hartnett mentioned that there may be plans in the works for a parking lot at the entrance to Great Brook Trail. She also suggested the possibility of including information from the DCC in a "welcome packet" being compiled for new residents. Submissions are due by July 15th and Wes Golomb will obtain information on the individual or organization spearheading the project.

Dave Linden reported that debris blocking the entrance of the Lindsay easement has generated a complaint from one of the easement's abutters. Serita Frey will send a letter to the abutter guilty of the violation.

Announcements and Correspondence:

We have received documentation of two conservation easements previously unknown to the DCC. The first, from Brown's Mill to NH Fish and Game and the Town of Deerfield, is thought to have been required as a stipulation for the subdivision. The Planning Board is requesting DCC input as a requirement for approval of the "As Built's". The second is a 55 acre compensatory easement deeded to the DCC by Tukcor Realty, associated with a DES Wetlands Bureau permit. Serita Frey will seek input from the BOS on their disposition.

Adjournment: 9:20 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.