

Conservation Commission - Town of Deerfield, NH
January 16, 2012 Minutes

Members Present: Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden, Herb McKinney
Members Absent: Erick Berglund, Wes Golomb, Diane Thompson
Visitors: Philip Bilodeau, Alex Cote, Robert Graves

Town Forest Management Plan:

Alex Cote and Philip Bilodeau of the recently re-formed Deerfield Forestry Commission met with the members to determine what expectations the DCC had with respect to their role. Serita Frey indicated that it was the opinion of the DCC that the primary purpose of the Forestry Commission was to manage the town forests and to work with the DCC toward that end. It was further felt that the roles of the two commissions were compatible with one another. Phil Bilodeau gave some background into his past involvement with the commission, which formerly included Kevin Cini and David Sidmore. His expression of interest in the work of the commission ultimately led to his appointment to the Forestry Commission. There is at this time a question as to whether he is still officially considered a member of the commission.

Both Phil and Alex Cote echoed the DCC's concern that since the signing of the contract between Charlie Moreno and the town, there has not been more progress made with respect to the Town Forest Management Plan. Alex approached Charlie Moreno and suggested that there was a need to move forward on the project in order to maximize revenue from the logging in the event of a market downturn. Phil inquired if funds for the plan had been encumbered and Serita Frey informed him that those costs were being paid from the Conservation Fund and did not require an encumbrance. At the time the original contract was signed, the Board of Selectmen met with Charlie Moreno and Kevin Cini and agreed that Charlie Moreno's fee would be paid out of the Conservation Fund which would then be reimbursed from the proceeds of the timber cuts. Phil Bilodeau noted the absence of a balance in the Forestry Management Reserve Fund. Going forward, proceeds from town timber cuts could be placed in reserve. The Forestry Commission would steward the fund which could be used for forest maintenance and to establish/maintain trails.

Serita stated that an updated management plan would be a valuable addition to the Town Forest Protection Project and that the 2009 Action Plan should be part of the contract. Kate Hartnett spoke with Charlie Moreno on January 13th regarding his lack of progress and it is perceived that the existence of an active Forestry Commission would have been a positive force in moving the project forward. It is still generally felt that Charlie Moreno is a very knowledgeable forester as evidenced by his work on other properties in town. Kate offered to e-mail a copy of the Town Forest Management Plan to Alex and Phil and welcomed any feedback they might be willing to give. A review of the 1990 forestry plans and related cuts could be helpful in current decision making and setting of priorities.

Phil Bilodeau asked Robert Graves, a guest at the meeting and a certified forester, what, in his opinion, the time frame would be on developing a plan for 8 town forests. Mr. Graves indicated that much depended on the individual properties and the presence of existing boundary lines. Phil indicated that proceeds from any harvesting of well-defined properties could be used to fund delineation of those that were ill-defined. Kate suggested meeting again after Forestry has had an opportunity to review the current management plan. Alex inquired whether the plan had been based upon the 2009 Action Plan and it was explained that the deliberations were between Mr. Moreno and Kevin Cini. Given the fact that Kevin Cini was no longer actively involved with the Forestry Commission and that Alex had replaced him as commissioner, Kate suggested involving Frank Mitchell to whatever degree he would be willing to participate. Serita Frey will copy everyone on the 2009 Action Plan.

Robert Graves is the new owner of the former 89 acre Holloway property at 139 Mt. Delight Rd. Serita Frey reviewed the history of the DCC's brief involvement with the former owner who had approached the DCC regarding

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the possible sale of a conservation easement to the town. Mr. Graves, in keeping with his own and Ms. Holloway's wishes to conserve the property, and given the economics of the new owners' long term goal to "farm" the land and tap approximately 200 trees, hoped to be able to fund future conservation activities with the proceeds of a potential easement sale. The property, much of which is early successional browse, abuts the Freese Town Forest and has abundant wildlife, despite the fact that approximately 40 acres was devastated by the tornado. There was discussion on the history of the area and the abutting properties including its proximity to the Lamprey headwaters and the diversity of its wildlife habitat. Serita explained the various sources of outside funding and the role of the land trusts in the process as well as the need to review how the prospective property fits into the Open Space Plan. Mr. Graves inquired if the DCC ascribes to the Wildlife Action Plan and was informed that it is incorporated into Deerfield's Open Space Plan. Kate Hartnett requested that Mr. Graves submit a survey of the property. Serita Frey added the parcel to the DCC's project list and invited Mr. Graves to meet with us again on the 12th of March, giving the DCC an opportunity to review his survey.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 12th meeting were approved with the following additions/corrections:

The approval to purchase 5 copies of the Open Space Plan was not recorded in the December minutes. Herb McKinney had been directed to procure as many copies as the balance in the supply line would reasonably allow. Herb McKinney and Kate Hartnett did recall that a vote had been taken, however, in the absence of a recorded account of the vote, the membership once again voted to unanimously approve the purchase. In addition to the previous omission, Erick Berglund's name was incorrectly listed among the members present and should have been noted as absent.

Financial Officer's Report: Herb McKinney, acting Financial Officer for the months of December, January and February, reported an operating budget surplus of \$888.87 at 12/15/2011. The 2012 proposed budget of \$2005 reflects a reduction from the 2011 budget of \$324 resulting from a decrease in the "Part Time Secretary" line. The balance of the Conservation Fund as of December 11th was \$390,063.49 which includes interest of \$49.69. It was suggested that an additional clerical person could be sought to continue the work on the archived records given Ms. Marshall's limited time to do so.

Land Conservation:

McGarry Easement: Serita Frey was happy to announce that the Fred and Penny McGarry Conservation Easement is now complete, final papers having been signed at the December 19th meeting of the BOS. The McGarry's have permanently protected the easement, having named Bear Paw as the grantee and the Town of Deerfield as the executory interest holder of the 56.7 acre parcel on Old Centre Road, Tax Map 410-102.

Town Forest Protection Project:

Serita Frey has finalized the letters for the Requests for Proposals (RFP's) and handed them over to the clerk for mailing. Organizations to be contacted directly are *Bear-Paw Regional Greenways*, *Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests*, and *Southeast Land Trust*. Publication of the notice in a local newspaper of general circulation and on the town website may generate interest from other qualified organizations as well.

Nonpublic Session: At approximately 8 PM Serita Frey moved to enter a Non-public Session under RSA91-A:3,II(d), *Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community*. The motion was seconded by Dave Linden. A roll call vote was taken with Hartnett, Linden, McKinney, and Frey each voting in favor of the motion.

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The non-public session adjourned and the regularly scheduled meeting resumed at 8:35 PM. It is noted that prior to the adjournment of the session, Herb McKinney moved to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session, *...divulgence of which would render any proposed actions ineffective for reasons given under RSA91-A:3,II(d)*. The motion was seconded by Serita Frey followed by a roll call vote with Frey, Hartnett, Linden and McKinney each voting in favor of the motion.

Old Business:

Serita Frey directed the clerk to send Ms. Frey's letter to Jon Therrien requesting he remove debris obstructing the entrance to the Lindsay easement via Certified Mail/Return Receipt.

Kate Hartnett confirmed that Al Jaeger is working with the forester on the Burbank timber harvest. She will also be sending an update of the Great Brook chronology to the DCC.

Two of the five newly-obtained Copies of the *Deerfield Open Space Plan-August 2010* were distributed to Herb McKinney and Kate Hartnett. The three remaining copies will be placed in the DCC file. Serita Frey has retained the original DCC copy.

New Business:

Kate Hartnett announced that the Planning Board has extended an invitation to members of the DCC to attend the January 25th Planning Board meeting. Kate would appreciate members' support with respect to the Wayne Hussey development at Mount Delight and Browns Mill Road stating that the easement is non-functional and that there is a need for deed restrictions. Herb McKinney requested that copies of Serita Frey's recent letter to the Planning Board be circulated among the DCC members.

Correspondence:

The DCC is in receipt of three Complete Forestry Notices from the DES as "*Notification of Forest Management or Timber Harvest Activities Having Minimum Wetlands Impact*" as follows:

John Burbank	#2011-03127	Map 408 Lot 4	Coffeetown Road
	#2011-03127	Map 408 Lot 12	Cate Road
	#2011-03127	Map 408 Lot 14	Cate Road
Mark & Catherine Barnard	#2011-03151	Map 409 Lot 49	19 Harvey Rd.
Robert Moulton	#2012-00045	Map 414 Lot 152	Church Street

Announcements:

Serita Frey informed the members that Diane Thompson had resigned her position on the Commission. It was suggested that Diane inform Kevin Barry of her resignation. Kate Hartnett will mention the opening to Frank Mitchell as well as his potential involvement on the Forestry Commission, further stating that conservation ideals should be reflected in any Forestry Commission.

Adjournment: 9:15 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