

Conservation Commission - Town of Deerfield, NH  
February 13, 2012 Minutes

**Members Present:** Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden, Herb McKinney  
**Members Absent:** Erick Berglund, Wes Golomb  
**Visitors:** Frank Mitchell

DCC Volunteer Frank Mitchell presented a list of potential new members/volunteers for the DCC. There is currently an opening for one additional member, to replace the seat vacated by Diane Thompson, openings for two alternates, and numerous volunteer opportunities for those interested in assisting with ongoing projects. The list is a starting point and as names are added, the DCC can draw on the talent of willing candidates. A suggestion was made to develop an outline of the role that participants would play in the work of the DCC and to contact NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC), which may have a list of duties and responsibilities that could be used as a template. A discussion of the viability of named candidates followed, including suggestions for the selection process. Dave Linden felt that being a landowner was a positive attribute and Serita Frey stressed the importance of a willingness to be involved. Frank Mitchell offered to provide assistance and Serita will place the project on the agenda for March.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were unanimously approved.

**Financial Officer's Report:** Herb McKinney reported expenditures for the month of January in the amount of \$319.00 for clerical and legal services, pending adoption of the 2012 budget. A motion to pay \$49.50 for the publication of the *Request for Proposal* in the Concord Monitor was approved unanimously. Approval was also unanimously granted (*Motion-Dave Linden/Second-Serita Frey*) to submit an invoice for payment in the amount of \$10,630.59 from Bear-Paw Regional Greenways for costs incurred in the acquisition of the McGarry conservation easement. Payment is to be made from the Conservation Fund. It was further agreed that the disbursement should not be delayed pending receipt of the \$4,000 grant secured by Bear-Paw from the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership. (*Additional details of the expenditure follow under the heading of Correspondence*)

**Land Conservation:**

**Project #26:** Serita Frey gave a synopsis of her recent communications with the owners which included a discussion of available options, economic realities and a review of the market analysis and appraisal figures. Despite limitations on both sides which have prevented the owners and the DCC from coming to terms, and the fact negotiations were at an impasse, it was agreed by those present that the offer could be left on the table. Serita agreed to contact the owners to update them on our position.

**Project #28:** The owner is in the process of obtaining a plan of the property for DCC review.

**Town Forest Management Plan:** Kate Hartnett approached Frank Mitchell with the prospect of becoming involved with the Forestry Commission. There is a need for a liaison between Forestry and DCC to focus attention on the implementation of the forestry plan created in 2009, the goal of which was to “*Demonstrate stewardship of the eight Deerfield town forests by implementing a management plan that results in healthy and resilient forests*”. There was general agreement that reinstating the Forestry Commission was a positive step toward achieving those goals; however, it will also require keeping the current forester on task. Frank will contact Alex Cote and/or Phil Bilodeau to volunteer his services and to check on the progress of the forest management plan. Frank also reminded the members that the plan would be needed to complete the easements.

**Town Forest Protection Project:** Based on the February 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for submission, Serita Frey anticipates discussion of proposals for this project to be on the agenda for the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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**Regulated Wetlands:**

DCC has received a copy of the DES denial of *Dredge and Fill Application #2011-02601* for Map 206 Lot 4 (3 Scott Lane). Cited were multiple instances of non-compliance with RSA 482-A and Administrative Rules Env-Wt 100 through 900 and their findings of fact as the basis for their decision. Serita Frey will represent the DCC at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals where a requested variance for this project as it relates to the *Pleasant Lake Watershed Overlay*, is expected to be presented.

Notification has also been received from DES of its determination of a prior *Standard Dredge and Fill Application, DES File #2011-02869* for property identified as **Map 413 Lot 7** (McCarron Road). DES has approved the application and issued a *Wetlands and Non-Site Specific Permit #2011-02869* for the construction of a roadway, driveways and an emergency access roadway for the third and final phase of the development.

**Old Business:**

Serita Frey and Herb McKinney reported on their attendance at the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Planning Board. The developer of the Brown's Mill subdivision has agreed to revise its Statement of Conservation Easement re-defining it from *conservation easement* to *conservation restriction*. At Serita Frey's request, DCC has received copies of background information for its files including correspondence between Attorney Raymond and Gerald Coogan, Town Planner. The developer has agreed that a variation of the following language noted on the plan will be included in each deed.

*"Approval of this subdivision is contingent upon: 1.) The granting of a permanent conservation easement (replace with conservation restriction), prohibiting the cutting of vegetation within the New Hampshire jurisdictional wetlands within this subdivision, except as noted hereon for the construction and maintenance of the roadways"*

Specific lot restrictions are then outlined and followed by:

*"General maintenance of the woodland habitat within the (easements) may be permitted subject to prior approval from the Conservation Commission"*.

**Correspondence:**

The return receipt from the letter sent to Jon Therrien requesting he remove debris obstructing the entrance to the Lindsay easement has been received.

Volunteer Al Jaeger has completed the annual monitoring of the following conservation easements:

|         |           |           |           |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Burbank | 15 Acres  | Pendleton | 56 Acres  |
| Burbank | 92 Acres  | Pendleton | 128 Acres |
| Jaeger  | 111 Acres |           |           |

Serita will prepare the documents for submission to the state.

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DCC has received a detailed request for payment in the amount of \$10,630.59 from Bear-Paw Regional Greenways for costs incurred in the acquisition of the McGarry conservation easement in the amount of \$10,630.59 which “includes \$6,880.59 of expenses incurred during the project as well as a stewardship fee of \$3,750.” It was noted that they “...came in more than \$6,000.00 under budget and were able to secure a \$4,000 transaction assistance grant from the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership to support the project”. They further state that “Bear-Paw will help the Town secure that grant as part of its work on the project” and that they will “continue to look for ways to lower the cost of land protection projects to the Town”.

Kate made special note of the fact that receipt of the \$4,000 grant will reduce the total cost of securing the McGarry easement to \$6,630.59. She also suggested that a letter expressing DCC’s thanks should be sent to the McGarry’s.

**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*