

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2012

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

A short organizational session for the nomination of officers for 2012 preceded the opening of the regular meeting. Serita Frey and Erick Berglund were unanimously approved for the positions of Chairperson and Finance Officer respectively with terms expiring in April 2015.

Serita Frey welcomed guest Steve Walker, Stewardship Specialist from the Conservation Land Stewardship Program. CLS is part of the Executive Branch of state government and is considered part of the Governor's staff. Mr. Walker explained the role of the department relative to the monitoring of lands acquired with public funding, beginning with the LCIP acquisitions (New Hampshire Land Conservation Investment Program) from 1987 to 1993. In keeping with its focus on stewardship and monitoring, field visits are conducted every 4 to 6 years on those properties, with CLS personnel providing training and support to towns and Conservation Commissions in their own monitoring efforts. Mr. Walker made special note of the contribution Al Jaeger makes toward keeping a watchful eye on Deerfield's LCIP properties.

Mr. Walker also stressed the importance of accurate record keeping, having stewardship plans (forest management), and maintaining boundaries. He encouraged the use of GPS in mapping trails, culverts and timber harvests and noted that GPS-downloadable boundary tracks for all municipal LCIP properties were now available from their website at <http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/CLSP/index.htm>. The 2012 LCIP monitoring forms are also available on the same site. He urged monitors to utilize the form to interview the land owners prior to their field visits as a means to obtain an overview of any specific areas of concern.

In response to concerns about the status of the Curry parcel, Herb McKinney confirmed that the property had been partially walked in 2011 and would be completed by next month. With respect to the effects of the Northern Pass, Erick Berglund noted that the project ends before the Curry property and that the substation should not be affected. Serita Frey acknowledged the need for members to be involved in monitoring and Mr. Walker suggested soliciting the assistance of non-members as well. Erick Berglund clarified that monitoring was a joint effort with Bear-Paw for all but the LCIP properties.

Approval of Minutes:

Those who were present at the April 9th meeting moved that the minutes of that meeting be approved.

Financial Officer's Report:

Herb McKinney officially handed back his duties as interim financial officer to Erick Berglund. Erick was welcomed back to a round of applause. Mr. Berglund reported the DCC's operating budget balance to be \$1531.71 reflecting expenditures of \$545.29. A motion to allow payment of the April 30th Upton & Hatfield invoice in the amount of \$317.09 from the Conservation Fund was unanimously approved.

A motion to authorize Erick Berglund, and Herb McKinney as an alternate, to approve expenditures out of the regular operating budget, with a dollar amount not to exceed \$250.00, without the need for prior member approval, was moved and seconded. The authority granted in the motion does not apply to funds drawn from the Conservation Fund which will still require the prior approval of the Commission members. A report of all expenditures would be given at the next regular meeting. The intent of the motion is to facilitate processing of invoices presented to the town for payment in a timely fashion, without the need for a noticed, special meeting to do so.

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Land Conservation:

Serita Frey announced that the acquisition of the Edythe H. Boisvert property was finally complete. The warranty deed, granting ownership of Map 404 Lot 2 to the Town of Deerfield, was recorded on April 27, 2012 in Rockingham County Book #5310 Page 2115. Wes Golomb suggested that announcements be placed in both the Communicator and the Forum. Kate Hartnett will handle the placement and Serita Frey will express the DCC's gratitude to the Boisverts. Ms. Frey was applauded for her tireless efforts in acquiring the property. Ms. Frey stressed that the DCC now needs to move ahead with the drafting of a Warrant Article for March 2013 in order to receive permission from the Town to designate the property a Town Forest under Conservation Easement, and to be named for the grantor, Edythe H. Boisvert.

Regulated Wetlands:

DCC has received a copy from the DES, of a *Land Resources Complaint File #2012-01119, 28 Meetinghouse Hill Road, Deerfield Tax Map/Lot #209/9* dated May 3, 2012.

Wes Golomb plans to meet with Gerald Coogan of the Deerfield Planning Board regarding questions arising from Mr. Golomb's meetings with the Lamprey River Advisory Committee.

New Business:

Saddleback Mountain Project:

Serita Frey reported on a new research project for which UNH has received a 20 million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation, to monitor NH's forests over the next 10-20 years as climate changes in the region. Her involvement in the study will be to monitor soil changes around the state. During the duration of the project, measurements of soil temperature, moisture, and respiration (carbon dioxide emissions) will be recorded through the use of automated sensors that take measurements every 15-20 minutes. Of the eight sites located throughout the state, the location on Saddleback Mountain in Deerfield was chosen as being a site representative of a *headwater stream*. Plans are in place to run conduit for the electrical installations which will power the soil sensors. Placement of aquatic sensors in streams will measure nitrogen, phosphorus, turbidity and flow. Kate Hartnett has requested that Serita Frey compose an article for the Communicator.

Plan New Hampshire:

Kate Hartnett will be monitoring the *Plan NH* activity for pieces of their vision for sustainable communities which might fit into the plans for Deerfield. Their stated purpose is "...to contribute to the quality of life in New Hampshire communities by promoting excellence in sustainable planning, design and development of the built environment". There are four initiatives. The *Sustainable Communities Initiative Grant Project* funded by HUD, the DOT and the EPA includes a Compact Design program. The *Community Challenge Planning* grant initiative is intended to foster sustainable community development. The third initiative is *Livable Walkable Communities*. This segment is patterned after a New York project which has resulted in it now being possible to bike through its five boroughs. This came in the aftermath of 911 with the realization that an alternative means of evacuation was essential. The fourth initiative centers on *Transportation Solutions NH* and "how we think about, plan for and fund transportation here in the Granite State".

The concerns of a Deerfield resident about tree-cutting were recently referred to Erick Berglund. The resident was inquiring about activity and ribbon placement on trees on the abutting Lindsay property. Based on Mr. Berglund's description, Kate Hartnett surmised that they were boundary markers. She further noted that per the wishes of the owner, the now town-owned property was to remain "forever wild". Serita Frey noted that Dan Kern had indicated to her that they were marking boundaries as part of the Town Forest Protection project. Dave Linden inquired about the location of the line between the ball field and the Lindsay property.

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Old Business:

Serita Frey gave a brief update on the status of the request for a variance for the proposed project on Map 206 Lot 4 (3 Scott Lane). A meeting between the Planner and the Building Department would be beneficial in eliminating confusion about the implementation of the Pleasant Lake Watershed Overlay Ordinance, which needs to be clarified, and ways in which the process can be improved. Kate Hartnett suggested that Ms. Frey request e-mail updates on the issue from the Building Department. Serita Frey commented that her conversations with Josh Freed were very positive, but that they revealed a lack of understanding of the ordinance and how it is to be implemented and enforced. Kate Hartnett indicated that based on these productive conversations between the DCC and ZBA, she would speak with the Planning Board and suggest they invite representatives from the ZBA to work sessions on the Pleasant Lake Watershed Overlay.

Dave Linden commented that in spite of the January 15th letter sent to Jon Therrien, requesting removal of personal property blocking the entrance to a trail on the Lindsay conservation easement, the violation still exists. Serita Frey will talk with the BOS about next steps.

Dave Linden also reported that Police Chief Mike Greeley confirmed that his department would take care of the Cottonwood issues by patrolling the property.

Dave Linden will once again attempt to contact Patrick Cassier, Jr. regarding his family's property.

Adjournment: 8:55 PM.

The Next Meeting is presently scheduled for June 11th.

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