

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2012

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

Members Absent: Dave Linden

AmeriCorps Volunteers: Visitors Denise Greig, Deerfield Welfare Administrator and Leslie Boswak, Deerfield Town Administrator, were present to coordinate the upcoming arrival of the AmeriCorps volunteers on September 12th. The DCC will be one of the town groups/departments to benefit from the efforts of these 10 dynamic 18 to 24 year-olds. In order to fill the 280 hours of service during their 7 week stay, the DCC was asked by Ms. Boswak to provide a “wish list” of projects.

Ms. Greig, who is coordinating the team’s work schedule, has asked that there be a DCC member or other town volunteer to serve as point person for each of the proposed activities. Building on the preliminary suggestions made by Serita Frey and Frank Mitchell, the group was successful in identifying some specific needs which included the following:

- Maintenance and rebuilding of existing trails and bridges
- Trail blazing, medallion placement, setting GPS coordinates
- Signs and kiosks for all town forests
- Construction of kiosks and parking area-Freese
- Environmental educational program development for students
- DCC webpage development
- Wetland assessment/evaluation and GPS identification
- List serve of interested residents

Frank Mitchell elaborated on the wetland assessment using the New Hampshire method and the UNH Wetland Mapper program. Depending on the background of the volunteers, he could work with small groups to conduct studies and complete data scoring sheets. He informed the group that information on the method could be found at <http://nhwetlandmapper.unh.edu>

One of the goals of the program is for the AmeriCorps volunteers to work alongside volunteers from the town with the expectation that the programs they begin will continue after they leave. According to Ms. Boswak, they are here to change communities. Town projects are scheduled in the areas of Disaster/Emergency Preparedness, Energy Conservation, and Rural Development (cemeteries). Leslie Boswak noted that one of the projects will be the painting and decoration of the lower level of the G.B. White building which will include hanging the framed maps and building a display case. A collection of Wes Golomb’s photos of conservation areas will be among the displays. Denny Greig assured the members that any wood cutting (wood bank restoration, land clearing) would be performed under both town and AmeriCorps supervision with strict adherence to OSHA requirements.

Kate Hartnett requested input from the Forestry Commission and Phil Bolodeau will be called to request their participation at the next DCC meeting. Although the medallions are ready to go, Ms. Hartnett felt that, other than the Freese Town Forest, placement of the medallions prior to the completion of the easement for the other town forests would not be appropriate. A group could accompany Frank Mitchell during routine monitoring of Freese and blaze at the same time. It was also suggested that the signage at Freese be used as the model for the other parcels and that support posts could be placed in advance of making/obtaining signs. Leslie Boswak expressed her enthusiasm for the outdoor classroom at Freese, however it was felt that there was not sufficient time to develop the program which would require further preparation.

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Individuals, who have either offered their assistance or who's involvement might be requested as point persons were:

- Frank Mitchell (Wetland Assessment, Trails, Medallion placement-Freese)
- Kate Hartnett (Peg King – Flagging)
- Alan Perkin (Great Brook)
- Herb McKinney (Trails, Signs)
- Greg Doane (Trails)
- Dave Linden (Lindsay-Flanders Trails)
- Jo Anne Bradbury (Arthur Chase)
- Mark West (Rosenfield-Mallette)
- Phil Bilodeau (Dowst-Cate)
- Michael Greene (Freese Kiosk)
- Charlie Moreno (Freese Parking)
- James & Anne Deely (Freese Trail Development, GPS work)
- Jack Hutchinson (Bridge design)
- Will Frey (Bridge design assistance)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the July meeting were approved with one abstention.

Town Forest Protection Project:

Dan Kern indicated that there had been no changes to the draft easement document. The opinion from Deerfield attorney Jim Raymond that a separate document be recorded for each parcel was met with a suggestion that a master deed be recorded for the seven properties containing the language that would be identical to all seven easements. An amendment for each could then be drafted referring back to the master deed with such language as *the Town of Deerfield grants to Bear Paw with restrictions recorded herein* and containing a schedule of deed restrictions specific to each parcel. It was determined that the attorneys from the town and Bear Paw discuss these possibilities. Kate Hartnett suggested that, other than the boilerplate language, the format of the deed, (specifically the *discretionary consent* and *uses*), could be re-ordered/revised. She was asked to send her suggestions to Dan Kern for consideration who will draft a revised version, although it was noted that the attorneys will determine the structure and format.

It was suggested that Dan Kern add a column for *donor intent* to the matrix he has created and that the acquisition files be researched to determine any specific wishes the donors may have had that are not included in the recorded deeds. Clarification of the intent of any living donors or their families should be obtained in order to eliminate potential conflict. It was noted that Bear Paw would not be responsible for enforcing intent.

Further research is needed to define the restriction to *roads* as noted in the Lindsay deed and determine that it was not intended to include roads necessary for forest management. Erick Berglund suggested that it may be beneficial to consider *wildness restrictions* and to review the Freese parcel use options for reference. It was once again suggested that the easement first be completed, after which the residents would be asked for their input.

Kate Hartnett and Herb McKinney will present their work on the *matrix of uses* for review at the September 10th meeting.

Financial Officer's Report: Erick Berglund presented a proposed budget for 2013 in the amount of \$2102.00 which reflects an increase for dues of \$25.00 over the 2012 budget. Serita Frey moved to approve the proposed 2013 budget. Wes Golomb seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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The June balance in the conservation account was \$234,116.39 including interest of \$28.78 and \$237,496.23 with interest of 29.84 for July. Proceeds from Land Use Change Tax and a refund from the Boisvert closing increased the balance by \$3350.00 and \$16.45 respectively.

Regulated Wetlands:

DCC is in receipt of a copy of correspondence from the DES to W. Rollins Excavation with respect to *NHDES Alteration of Terrain File# WPS-7847, NHDES Wetlands File #2012-1964* regarding the gravel pit at Route 43 and Parade Rd (Map 209 Lot 35). It acknowledged that the wetland has been restored and that additional restoration to two other areas was in progress. It did, however, request a revision of plans previously submitted to address a perimeter haul road and remote truck parking area. The requested information was to be submitted by September 27, 2012.

New Business:

UNH Study: As part of their ongoing EPSCoR research project on Saddleback Mountain, UNH is requesting that they be allowed to conduct air and water sampling through the discrete placement of equipment on a small section of the Dowst-Cate property and Lamprey River to collect additional headwater stream data. The sensors would be powered by either wind or solar with the life of the project projected to be 5 years. Erick Berglund requested additional information and Herb McKinney suggested a visit to the Saddleback site after which a presentation could be made to the BOS. Wes Golomb's motion that the DCC support and encourage the project received a second by Kate Hartnett. The motion passed with one abstention by Chairman Frey. General information on NH EPSCoR can be obtained at <http://www.epscor.unh.edu/>

Lamprey River Committee Vacancy: Wes Golomb reminded the members that due to scheduling conflicts, he would be resigning from the Lamprey River oversight committee as one of the two representatives from Deerfield. At the suggestion of Kate Hartnett, Mr. Golomb will contact Mel Graykin as a potential replacement. The meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at a location that rotates among the participating towns. Volunteers are actively being sought and may contact Wes Golomb for more information.

Announcements:

Kate Hartnett announced that *Hands Across New Hampshire*, an anti-Northern Pass gathering, would take place on September 1st from 3:00 PM to 3:30 PM at the intersection of Routes 107 and 43. Participants should wear orange.

Adjournment: 9:30 PM

The Next Meeting is presently scheduled for September 10th.

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