

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2013

Members Present: Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden and Herb McKinney
Attendees: Alan Perkins, Dan Kern

Chair, Serita Frey opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Serita Frey moved to approve the minutes of the **May 13th 2013** meeting. Herb McKinney seconded the motion. **Dave Linden asked that the minutes be corrected** to show that he, and not Wes Golomb, had commented on the impact one-time summer homes converted to year-round residences on Freese's Pond are having on the water quality of the Lamprey. The minutes were approved as corrected with Erick Berglund abstaining.

Financial Officer's Report: Erick Berglund reported a balance in the Conservation Fund of **\$247,611.45 at the end of April reflecting interest in the amount of \$30.52**. The progress payment to Charlie Moreno of approximately \$5000 (approved at the May 13th meeting) will be reflected in the report for the end of June.

Lamprey River: Comments on the draft of the *Lamprey River Management Plan* <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/L/483/483-8-a.htm> had been solicited at the May Meeting. Erick Berglund felt that the document provided a good start but was unclear about what the document actually does. Serita Frey clarified that it **provided a guiding principle**. Mr. Berglund also noted that, **organizationally, goals should be presented first** followed by *accomplishments* and *future actions*. Also noted was its lack of enforceability. Dave Linden commented that **Nichols and Hartford Brooks were not included in the plan**. Wes Golomb noted that laws have been relaxed and that controls need to be maintained up-river to **manage down-stream flooding**. Members were asked to forward their comments either to Harriet Cady or directly to the LRAC prior to the June 15th deadline. Kate Hartnett will submit a comment from Deerfield suggesting they **encourage the use of vegetative buffers** as part of the plan's goals.

Trail Maintenance: Erick Berglund introduced **guest Alan Perkins**, who has become the **unofficial caretaker of Great Brook**, having hiked its trails thousands of times over the years. During these visits, he has provided grooming and maintenance as needed. Realizing that Great Brook was only one of Deerfield's many trails, he offered to provide volunteer assistance in their maintenance. Erick Berglund suggested soliciting the help of other **volunteers for bridge repair**, siting **crossings at Dowst-Cate** which already have logs in place and noting that planks could easily be laid. Serita Frey noted the upcoming **addition of monitoring equipment at Dowst-Cate**, designed to measure greenhouse gases and stream flow as part of UNH's involvement in the **EPSCoR research project** <http://www.epscor.unh.edu/>. A tour of the site is anticipated upon completion.

Mr. Perkins commented on the **use of non-motorized, off road (mountain) bikes on the Great Brook footpaths**. He expressed concern for their contribution to erosion and a hazard to the safety of hikers. He speculated that increased traffic at Great Brook was possibly the result of publicity in publications such as the *Seacoast Trails Guide* and on the *REI* website. Although trail bike use is not specifically mentioned, neither is its prohibition. Serita **Frey moved to formally restrict bike access to the Great Brook Corridor**, to which Herb McKinney provided a seconded. The vote to restrict was unanimous. **Mr. Perkins accepted DCC's request to become its liaison** and contact the various publications to inform them of the restriction to bike traffic on the trails. The Clerk was also instructed to **create two laminated signs** to be posted by Mr. Perkins at either end of the Great Brook Trails to read **"FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY"**. The signs will include the DCC Conservation Easement logo. Mr.

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Perkins also commented on encountering members of *MOSAIC*, a Jewish conservation group, who have asked him to give a presentation on trail maintenance at **Camp Yavneh in Northwood**. They also expressed an **interest in making a donation to the DCC**. Erick Berglund indicated that any donation would be gladly accepted, deposited into the Conservation Fund and earmarked for trail maintenance.

Serita Frey informed members that she had been contacted by UNH requesting access to **McNeil, Dowst-Cate and Weiss Town Forests to conduct non-destructive measurements of this year's leaf area index (LAI; an index that estimates the amount of foliage in a canopy) and tree stem diameter** as part of the ongoing **EPSCoR research project**. Ms. Frey further explained that the process compares foliage density as measured from above by satellite imagery and below, from under the canopy. **A motion by Herb McKinney and a second by Wes Golomb were followed by a unanimous vote to approve the undertaking.**

Forest Management: Town Forest Commissioner Alex Cote and Forester Charlie Moreno were unable to personally participate in the discussion of the **management objectives for the balance of the town forests**; however Mr. Cote and Phil Bilodeau submitted worksheets, individually indicating their *Management Priority Levels* for various areas and answers to more specific *Questions* regarding *self-funding of management expenses, control/eradication of invasives, trail density, management for species diversity, community participation, volunteer projects and educational programs*. The worksheet also included a checklist for specific types of *Recreational Use*. The members largely agreed with the opinions presented by Mr. Cote and Mr. Bilodeau. DCC members indicated *Forest Health* as a higher priority than *Recreational Uses*, noted that *control/eradication of exotic, invasive plants* is *Critical* and that *Expansion of Trails* should be property-dependent. There was agreement among members in the prohibition of motorized vehicles generally, although Snowmobiling had been suggested as a minor use on one of the worksheets. Kate Hartnett will contact Charlie Moreno to convey the results of the discussion, with the intention of continuing the dialog.

Correspondence: DCC is in receipt of a ***Complete Forestry Notification – File #2013-01243*** approving a ***“Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification”*** application for work on Deerfield, **Tax Map 424 Lot 025**, owned by The Stevens Family Trust.

Town Forest Protection Project: Dan Kern was present to review edits and to address members' questions regarding the conservation easement document. A discussion on the removal of Bear-Paw's conservation objectives from the document, due to possible inconsistencies pointed out by DCC's legal counsel, resulted in an agreement to re-insert the language, removing the agricultural soils line. Mr. Kern felt that it was important to show that the easement was consistent with Bear-Paw's mission. It was also agreed that a statement referencing the *Reserved Rights* would precede the section, noting that each right must be consistent with the management plan and not detrimental to the *Purposes* of the easement.

- Mr. Kern will send the marked-up version to Serita Frey to be forwarded to the members
- Baseline Document report will be available for the July meeting
- Members were instructed to review the revised document for discussion at the July meeting
- Ms. Frey will submit the finalized document to Attorney Raymond for review
- Final document will be presented at the August meeting prior to BOS submission
- Serita Frey will arrange for signing by the BOS

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It was decided that to maximize the number of members present for review of the final document, the meetings for July and August would be held on July 15th and August 19th respectively.

Projects #29A & 29B: Erick Berglund reported that he has requested bids for limited summary appraisals to be performed on each of the two parcels being considered. Bids are due by June 28th with the final decision to be announced on July 12th.

Conservation Land: Dave Linden suggested that Lindsey-Flanders conservation area should be blazed as well as the corner of the Linden parcel. Kate Hartnett added that Charlie Moreno feels Lindsey-Flanders would benefit from a management plan and will request a proposal from him to be added as a separate project after the Town Forests are complete

New Business: An e-mail from Andy Robertson sparked conversation about the availability of a parcel (See Deerfield Map 404 Lot 9 – Olsen-Villnave Easement) occupying a portion of Nottingham Mountain, consisting of approximately 309 Acres, 137 of which are located in Deerfield and the remainder in Epsom. The property is currently in conservation easement with 5 acres reserved as a house lot. Of concern was the possibility that construction of a dwelling might cut off access from the parcel which is currently gated, but left open. Research of the easement deed is needed to determine public access and points of entry. The potential for a joint venture with Epsom was mentioned. Serita Frey will call Frank Mitchell for additional information. <http://www.nhconservationrealestate.com/>

Serita Frey adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Please note the revised meeting date!

The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, July 15th

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