

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2013

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

Chair, Serita Frey opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Chair Frey introduced guest Deb Campelia who is a Physical Education instructor at Deerfield Community School. Ms. Campelia explained that she had recently attended a *Coverts Workshop* for which there is a requirement of 30 hours of service for completion. *The New Hampshire Coverts Project is coordinated by UNH Cooperative Extension. NH Fish & Game is the lead sponsor of the program, with additional support from NH Division of Forests & Lands, the US Fish & Wildlife Service State Wildlife Grants Program, and the Quality Deer Management Association. Its purpose is to train volunteers to promote wildlife habitat conservation and forest stewardship.* <http://extension.unh.edu/Volunteer/New-Hampshire-Coverts-Project>.

Ms. Campelia has considered conserving her own land and would also like to explore the possibility of protecting the DCS acreage. Notably the DCS property contains vernal pools and a beautiful stand of Beech. She has been **active in connecting her pupils with nature** through the use of Deerfield's trail systems, has promoted the concept of a *woods recess*, allowing the students to physically experience the natural habitat that surrounds the school, and is of the opinion that the connection with nature comes naturally to children if given the opportunity. Erick Berglund explained some of the work in which DCC is involved including the Town Forest easement project which will place easements on the seven town forests, the monitoring of existing easements, review of DES wetland permits and forestry notifications, and addressing resident concerns related to environmental issues. Mr. Berglund explained the role of Bear-Paw in assisting DCC with monitoring, training, land protection and funding opportunities. Serita Frey noted that DCC also works with the Select Board in arriving at agreeable outcomes in resolving conflicts with respect to environmental and conservation matters and explained that DCC welcomes volunteers wishing to work with the Commission, citing trail maintenance as one example and noting the contributions of Alan Perkins, AmeriCorps and others.

Ms. Campelia envisions involving 13 and 14 year old students in community service, promoting stewardship through *meaningful* projects. She suggested that she could compose a *Trail of the Week* write-up for publication and posting in *The Bridge* newsletter on the school website, <https://sites.google.com/a/sau53.org/dcs/the-bridge---school-newsletter-1>, on the DCC website http://townofdeerfieldnh.com/Pages/DeerfieldNH_BComm/Conservation/index and in *The Communicator*. Chair Frey noted that beyond volunteering, it was possible to become an alternate member and that at present there was also an opening for an active member to fill a vacant position. Ms. Campelia expressed interest in becoming a member of the DCC. Erick Berglund explained the process and with Ms. Campelia's acceptance, DCC would petition the BOS to make an appointment, after which she would be sworn in by the Town Clerk. Mr. Berglund will forward a copy of the RSA's relating to conservation commissions to Ms. Campelia for her review.

Approval of Minutes: Serita Frey moved to approve the minutes of the September 9th meeting subject to one addition **noting that the motion ...to give Erick Berglund the authority to approve for payment, any Upton and Hatfield invoices for DCC legal services..., (see September minutes for full text) had passed unanimously.** The motion to approve the September minutes was then passed with three members voting to approve and two abstentions.

Financial Officer's Report: Erick Berglund explained the workings of the Conservation Fund for the benefit of Ms. Campelia. A **motion to approve the payment of an Upton and Hatfield invoice in**

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the amount of \$135 for review of memoranda related to the town forest conservation easement was seconded by Serita Frey and passed unanimously.

Projects #29A & 29B: Erick Berglund explained that **the bid for a summary appraisal on the two parcels had been delayed**; however, he expects to hear from Heath Appraisal Services by the end of the week. Mr. Berglund will update the property owner. Serita Frey explained the process of acquiring land for the purchase of an easement. **The purchase is not expected to require a warrant article since it is not an outright purchase.**

Serita Frey was contacted by Selectman Andy Robertson regarding **postings on abutting properties prohibiting access to the town-owned Edythe H. Boisvert conservation land**, Dow Road, Map 404 Lot 002. Chair Frey forwarded a copy of the attorney's access opinion letter to Mr. Robertson which indicates that the Town does have a legal right-of-way to the parcel. Selectman Robertson wants to ensure that the Town has access to its lands and has agreed that the BOS would pursue this issue beyond simply removing the signs. The clerk was asked to **contact the Town Administrator to determine the deadlines and procedure for creating a warrant article to be placed on the March 2014 ballot** to *convey a conservation easement to a qualified conservation organization which will permanently restrict its use to open space purposes, including wildlife habitat conservation, forestry and recreation* as was prepared for the 7 Town Forests on the 2011 ballot.

Regulated Wetlands:

PSNH D118 Thermal Uprate Project- Deerfield, Candia, Hooksett

Serita Frey has received an e-mail from Normandeau Associates, an environmental consulting firm working with **PSNH on the replacement-in-kind of their D118-115 kV line**. An NHDES Standard Dredge and Fill permit application was obtained since the project was within a quarter mile of the Lamprey River. Ms. Frey read from a copy of a letter from the *Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee* to DES, providing their opinion of the **impacts the project would have on the watershed** based upon the information provided in the Normandeau study for PSNH. Ms. Frey commented that the information indicates that the current poles are in excess of 40 years old and that she feels it is reasonable to surmise that they will eventually need replacement. The correspondence from Normandeau further inquired whether the Town would require an application for a special use permit. Ms. Frey responded that this would need to be determined by the town and not by or through the DCC. Erick Berglund shared his less than favorable experience with previous upgrades and has agreed to review the materials and report back to the members in November.

Town Forest Protection Project: Members have recently received the latest version of the proposed easement deed into which Kate Hartnett has incorporated her edits and those of forester Charlie Moreno. Herb McKinney felt the edits were fairly clear. Erick Berglund posed a concern that the base document used for the edits may not have been the latest version and will verify the information. In addition Mr. Berglund questioned the wisdom of Attorney Raymond's suggestion to allow use fees. Mr. Berglund also pointed out that the section for the Wells Town Forest indicates that it is part of Dowst-Cate. Chair Frey felt that there had not been sufficient time to review the new edits prior to the meeting and tabled discussion until the November meeting. Ms. Frey will send out the revised version after she has had an opportunity to review the document.

Northern Pass: Erick Berglund updated members on the result of a meeting with the BOS regarding the Northern Pass project at which the **board was encouraged to take more direct action**. As a result of their request, the BOS has appointed Rebecca Hutchinson and Andy Robertson to represent the Town. Comments and recommendations made at that meeting were:

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- The deadline for comments to the Department of Energy is November 5th for the Town to state its position and why it is taking that position
- Deerfield should connect with other towns
- Revenue is not that lucrative
- It is historically expensive to litigate
- The project is disruptive to the Historic District

Erick Berglund indicated that the BOS was receptive to Lisa Wolford's presentation. Mr. Berglund will e-mail a link to an AMC video showing the overall effect on conserved land.

<http://www.outdoors.org/conservation/wherewework/wmnf/northern-pass-video-project.cfm>

Forest Management: Erick Berglund noted that it is his understanding that **a warrant article would be needed in order to reimburse the DCC**, as agreed, for expenses incurred in the creation of the Town Forest management plans. The deadline for a warrant article will need to be determined.

New Business: Dave Linden informed the members that he had been contacted by **a resident who may be interested in donating a 5.1 Acre parcel** that is contiguous to parcels currently owned by the Town. Serita Frey will contact Attorney Raymond regarding the offer and the possible need to "warrant" a gift of land to the Town.

Correspondence: DCC has received the following notifications:

A request for a variance from the provisions of RSA 227-J:9, the basal area law, to remove more than 50 percent of the basal area along Middle Rd, Old Candia Rd. and Hartford Brook on the **Godlewski** property, **Map 419 Lots 38 and 40**.

A notification from the **NH Division of Forests and Lands** of a planned *sanitation harvest* from 24 acres of Bear Brook State Park in the town of Deerfield **to minimize the spread of red pine scale**. The location of the area to be cut is along Middle Rd. just beyond the Allenstown/Deerfield line on **Map 413 Lot 59**.

A Complete Forestry Notification – File #2013-02384 following the submission of a "**Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification**" form for work in Deerfield, **Tax Map 415 Lot 013**, owned by Sarah Miller of 36 Raymond Rd.

A Complete Forestry Notification – File #2013-02571 following the submission of a "**Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification**" form for work in Deerfield, **Tax Map 418 Lots 93, 96 and 96**, owned by The Patrick and Sandra Cassier Trust of 94 South Rd.

A Complete Forestry Notification – File #2013-02794 following the submission of a "**Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification**" form for work in Deerfield, **Tax Map 411 Lot 043**, owned by Ethel Baker of 157 Mt. Delight Rd.

Serita Frey adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.

The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, November 18th

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