

**Deerfield Conservation Commission
2013 Annual Report**

The **Deerfield Conservation Commission (DCC)** is a volunteer board with members appointed for three year terms by the Board of Selectmen. State Law *RSA 36-A* calls for the establishment of conservation commissions for the “*proper utilization and protection of natural resources and the protection of watershed resources.*” The commission may also, with approval by the Select Board, acquire land as conservation areas or town forests, and then manage those areas. Primary work by DCC members and volunteers for 2013 is outlined below:

LAND CONSERVATION

After the acceptance of a 2011 warrant article by 69% of the voters to permanently protect Deerfield’s Town Forests and Conservation Areas, the DCC sought proposals from interested Land Trust Organizations to establish and maintain conservation easements on the following:

Arthur Chase Town Forest	Tax Map 414 Lot 73	40 Acres
Dowst-Cate Town Forest	Tax Map 416 Lot 16	100 Acres
Hart Town Forest	Tax Map 403 Lot 2	71 Acres
Lindsay Conservation Area	Tax Map 415 Lot 30	58 Acres
McNeil Conservation Area	Tax Map 406 Lot 12	63 Acres
Weiss Town Forest	Tax Map 416 Lot 18	93 Acres
Wells Town Forest	Tax Map 411 Lot 39	80 Acres

The DCC ultimately accepted the proposal submitted by Bear-Paw Regional Greenways and is currently in the process of working out the details of the conservation easement deed. The easement, when completed, will protect these parcels in perpetuity for future generations of Deerfield residents.

In the fall of 2012, DCC was successful in acquiring, on behalf of the town, ~178 acres of land (Map 404 Lot 002), located off Dow Road and formerly owned by Edythe H. Boisvert. The parcel consists of large, unfragmented areas of mixed forest and prime wildlife habitat, and is contiguous to the Nottingham Mountain conservation area. Its proximity to other town-owned land, including the Wells Town Forest, the Cory Wildlife Management Area and the Olsen-Villnave easement, made the acquisition of this beautiful area a particularly significant addition to Deerfield’s conservation lands.

In keeping with the intent of the acquisition and the wishes of the former owner that this parcel be conserved in perpetuity, DCC has drawn up a Warrant Article to be presented to the voters on the March 2014 ballot to name the Edythe H. Boisvert conservation area a Town Forest. Passage of this warrant article will not only confer the status of Town Forest on the property, but conveyance of the easement will further guarantee permanent conservation of this town-owned Conservation Area with the Town continuing to own and manage the property.

The DCC continues its efforts, in cooperation with the Forestry Committee and a professional forester, to conduct a Town Forest inventory and develop a forestry management plan for our Town Forests. The DCC provided the initial funding to enable this project.

The DCC is currently working with several land owners interested in putting conservation easements on their properties.

The DCC continues to work to form a trails committee.

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH:

The DCC works with many other town bodies and outside organizations including:

- The Board of Selectmen on easements and other DCC activities
- Town Energy Committee
- Forestry Committee, for planning forest stewardship and timber harvests on town forests
- Planning Board and Town Planner
- Bear-Paw Regional Greenways
- Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)
- Lamprey River Watershed Association
- Southern NH Planning Commission Natural Resource Advisory Committee
- Town officials to keep residents informed by publishing the DCC minutes, members list and trail maps on the town website

2013 DCC MEMBERS AND MEETINGS:

DCC members are volunteers who give freely of their time in service to the Town. Serita Frey is the Chair and Erick Berglund is the financial officer. Deb Campelia, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden, and Herb McKinney are members. Frank Mitchell volunteers his time for easement monitoring and is assisting with several land protection projects. Alan Perkins volunteers his time for trail maintenance and has cleared and blazed trails on several Town-owned conservation properties. The DCC meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 pm. Interested citizens are always welcome to attend the meetings. Volunteers are also sought to assist with various conservation-related tasks and projects.