

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2014

**Members Present:** Erick Berglund, Deb Campelia, Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden

**Members not Present:** Herb McKinney, Wes Golomb

**Visitors:** Jim Deely, Denny Greig

Serita Frey called the meeting to order at **7:05 PM**

**Trails Committee: (See Also: Summary on Page 2)**

Jim Deely was present to report on the progress of the proposed Trails Committee. Serita Frey summarized that **DCC members had voted at the March meeting to move ahead with the formation of the committee**, naming **Jim Deely Chairperson with Dave Linden as the DCC liaison**. The anticipated structure would consist of **6 full members with three-year terms, and volunteers** who would be recruited to form work parties for trail maintenance. Kate Hartnett suggested that there could be various layers of participants; **officers, members and volunteers**, with a small decision making group made up of core members. Chair Frey suggested that **officers may not be immediately necessary**, although a secretary to take minutes and post meetings might be needed. There was discussion as to whether **finances could initially flow through the DCC** since the committee would be a sub-committee of the DCC. **A separate fund would need to be created** to prevent comingling of funds. Mr. Deely expects to hold **two posted meetings per year** and suggests that the meetings could be a combination business meeting/pot luck supper. The organization could be **informal, but guided**. Mr. Deely plans to **speak with other towns** and suggested the following:

- Make plans comprehensive
- Keep meeting time to a minimum
- Set ground rules
- Work only by committee
- Perform maintenance by consensus
- Coordinate activities through Mr. Deely
- Create a set of practices (responsibility/liability)

Erick Berglund cited the **necessity of having strategies, goals and objectives** for the entity and Ms. Frey noted that **proposals for activities would need to come through the DCC**. The subject of **liability and waivers with respect to the volunteers** was discussed and the need to speak with Town counsel. Denny Greig cautioned against **driving folks away by requiring some degree of “membership”**; that there are many residents willing to donate their time and expertise without becoming heavily invested in the organization or being required to take training classes for chainsaw use, but recognized the need to obtain legal advice on the matter. Erick Berglund noted that liability coverage may not cover the person with the saw and that AmeriCorps volunteers had worked under the guidance of Alan Perkins and Al Jaeger.

Mr. Deely intends to **research language from other clubs, and to get public feedback**, but is asking DCC to **define its expectations**. Serita Frey responded that **trail maintenance and blazing** were needed. As a good starting point, Kate Hartnett recommended reviewing the *Planning Board Trail Inventory* which was created in 2011 for the Planning Board by Jim and Ann Deely and is **available from the DCC page at [http://townofdeerfieldnh.com/Pages/DeerfieldNH\\_BComm/Conservation/Trail%20Maps](http://townofdeerfieldnh.com/Pages/DeerfieldNH_BComm/Conservation/Trail%20Maps)**. Included in the plan is a **survey which provides resident recommendations and suggested activities** for both conservation trails and in-town walking paths.

Mr. Deely indicated his intention to request assistance from his sister who is highly experienced in the field of trails, and possesses a Master’s Degree in Field Ecology. Based on his research there are four phases:

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**(1) Exploration/Layout, (2) Construction, (3) Maintenance, and (4) Stewardship.** Denny Greig suggested a **fifth phase; Usage/Outreach to the Community**, especially to youth, who will become the Trails Committee of the future. Ms. Greig feels that outreach should be a huge part of the committee's objectives. Activities could include **social walks, after school programs sponsored by the school and the Town's Parks and Recreation Committee, as well as involvement by other clubs.** Deb Campelia suggested awarding a *patch for completing a specified number of trails.* Buses could possibly transport kids to the trails, given the limited parking availability. **Questing**, which involves navigating the trails via a series of "clues", each pointing to the next destination and an ultimate goal, was also a suggested activity. Serita Frey requested **Ms. Campelia consider composing an article** highlighting the future committee.

Jim Deely has **spoken with Joe Manzi (Director, Deerfield Parks and Recreation)** about potentially using their **two 15-passenger vans for transport.** Mr. Manzi was supportive of the program, but hesitant to allow someone other than a Town employee drive the vans. Mr. Deely suggested having a **meeting within a month** to launch the idea. The **Wellness Expo scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>** was suggested as a means of getting the word out and **attendees could sign up to receive additional information.** Serita Frey will send an **e-mail to the BOS** to inform them of the formation of the Trails Committee which will initially be part of the DCC. Additional points made included:

- Formation of a Trails Website, possibly coordinating it with the existing DCC page on the Town website
- Obtaining grant funding
- Consultation with the State's Trails Division
- Obtaining feedback from snowmobile clubs (an active force in trail formation/maintenance)
- Allowed uses
  - Defined by Town Forest Easement Deed and Public Feedback
  - Conservation easements prohibit use of motorized vehicles, ATV's, snowmobiles
  - Private property use to be defined by property owners
- Definition of projects
- Outreach and Programs
- Field Safety guidelines to include diligence in checking for ticks

### **Serita Frey provided the following summary:**

- **Structure**
  - Sub-committee of DCC initially
  - Finance administered through DCC
  - Will need a separate fund
  - Possible separate Treasurer in the future
- **Participation/Membership**
  - Small core of members
  - Volunteers
  - Multiple work parties
- **Meetings**
  - Two public meetings per year
  - First meeting in approximately one month
    - ✓ Get a group together
    - ✓ Devise a plan
    - ✓ Decide what is to be accomplished
    - ✓ Decide on a project

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- **Outreach**
  - Survey
  - Trails Plan
  - Maps
  - Articles for Communicator/Forum
- **Funding**
  - Erick Berglund to check with Finance Director or Treasurer
  - Possible acceptance of donations to be determined
- **Liability and Waivers**
  - Serita Frey to obtain legal recommendations

(Additional Resource: *Forest and Crag: A History of Hiking, Trail Blazing, and Adventure in the Northeast Mountains* - Waterman, Appalachian Mountain Club Books, 1989 ISBN 091014673X, 9780910146739)

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the **March 14th meeting were approved** with one abstention by Kate Hartnett who was not present at the March meeting.

**Financial Officer's Report:** Erick Berglund reported that he had not yet received a balance for February or March for the Conservation Fund. The balance at the **end of January was of \$245,144.72** including interest of \$31.10

**Town Forest Protection Project:** Chair Frey noted that the **final version of the easement deed was sent** to Dan Kern and has been reviewed by Bear-Paw's committee. Mr. Kern **suggested waiting until June to formally have the BOS sign off on the deed** and Ms. Frey will **request to be placed on a June BOS agenda**. A decision was made to hold a **15 minute public hearing to answer questions and obtain input on May 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7 PM**. The clerk will coordinate with the BOS schedule to avoid any potential conflict and move forward with publishing the notice in the Concord Monitor, the Forum and the Communicator.

**Project # 28:** Erick Berglund indicated that he had been in contact with Heath Appraisal and expects delivery of the appraisal by Wednesday. Chair Frey noted that a non-public session should be scheduled for the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the results.

**Project # 29:** Erick Berglund and Frank Mitchell met with the owners to review the decision reached by the DCC in March which had been previously conveyed to them in a letter.

**New Business:**

Frank Mitchell has informed the DCC that there have been reports of snowmobiles through Freese Town Forest in spite of signage prohibiting motorized vehicles. Kate Hartnett will speak with Frank Mitchell. Dave Linden suggested contacting an abutter to obtain additional information.

The Town Clerk's office has informed Chair Frey that Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett and Herb McKinney's **terms of office are expiring at the end of April**. Ms. Frey has received confirmation of renewal from Kate Hartnett, however; Ms. Frey was unable to contact Wes Golomb regarding his decision. **Regrettably, Herb**

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**McKinney has decided to resign as member, but wishes to remain a volunteer. The members wish to express their sincere gratitude for his past efforts!**

Members were informed that **UNH student summary reports** for the *Land Conservation Principles & Practices* course, including the Chase, Dowst-Cate and Lindsay Flanders parcels would be presented on Friday **May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 at Nesmith 119** on the UNH campus.

**Nonpublic Session:** At approximately **8:30 PM Serita Frey moved to enter a Non-public Session** under RSA91-A:3,II(d), *Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.* **A roll call vote was taken with Erick Berglund, Deb Campelia, Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett and Dave Linden each voting in favor of the motion.**

At approximately **8:55 PM the non-public session adjourned** and the regularly scheduled meeting resumed. It was noted that prior to the adjournment of the session, **a motion by Serita Frey and a second by Erick Berglund to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session, ...divulgence of which would render any proposed actions ineffective for reasons given under RSA91-A:3,II(d).** was followed by a **roll call vote with Erick Berglund, Deb Campelia, Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett and Dave Linden each voting in favor of the motion.**

Serita Frey adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

**The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

*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*