

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2014

Members Present: Erick Berglund, Deb Campelia, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden
Visitors/Volunteers: Onni Irish, Mark Young, Herb McKinney

Serita Frey called the meeting to order at **7:05 PM** followed by introductions of the members and visitors.

Resident Onni Irish was present to bring her **environmental concerns for Pleasant Lake** to the attention of the DCC which include:

Environmental Impacts:

- High water levels posing a threat of die-out to lakefront vegetation resulting in shoreline soil erosion
- Elevated phosphorus levels and low dissolved oxygen
- E-coli problems at Veasey Park
- Threats from invasive species (Chinese Snail, Milfoil)
- Failure of Pleasant Lake and Veasey Park Beach to meet designated uses as defined in the 2012 305(b)/303(d) Assessment of the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 319

Funnel Development Impacts:

- Potential for a large tract of land on the Gulf Road side of the lake to be subdivided with subsequent owner sharing of a semi-private dock area on the 200 to 300 feet of lake frontage
- Increased nitric oxide levels from increased car traffic (leading to acid rain/increased lake acidity)
- Decreased drainage ability from increased development and pavement (runoff) affecting the Pleasant Lake watershed as a whole
- Increased macro and micro point source pollutants; litter, oil/gas spill from increased boat traffic
- Increased potential (from a second entry access point) for foreign invasive species
- Decrease in property values as the quality of the lake degrades

Ms. Irish noted that **Pleasant Lake ranked 12th for those surface waters having a high watershed recovery potential** as recognized in the 2013 NH Nonpoint Source Management Plan (Appendix C). Building on that potential, the **Pleasant Lake Association has begun working with Steve Landry from NH DES to apply for federal EPA funding for development of a Watershed Restoration Plan** under section 319 of the U.S. EPA Clean Water Act and has asked for DCC's support in their efforts to secure grant funding. **The purpose of the restoration plan would be to identify major sources of non-point source pollution and develop a list of pollutants.** According to Mr. Landry, one anonymous survey received a 67% rate of response. A similar response from Pleasant Lake residents would be an important step toward fact-finding and the development of best management practices for the restoration plan. <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/cwact.cfm> *Under Section 319, states, territories and tribes receive grant money that supports a wide variety of activities including technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects and monitoring to assess the success of specific nonpoint source implementation projects.*

Additionally, the Southern NH Planning Commission has applied on behalf of the Pleasant Lake Association for grant funding under section 604B of the US EPA Clean Water Act

http://des.nh.gov/recovery/604b_funding.htm *The US Environmental Protection Agency awards and administers Water Quality Management Planning Grants to the States under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Section 604(b) of the CWA requires the use of 1 percent of each state's Clean Water State Revolving Fund allotment to be used for water quality planning projects. In accordance with section 604(b) of the CWA, at least 40 percent of the \$395,600 total allotment or \$158,240 must be allocated to the regional planning commissions and appropriate interstate organizations.*

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This endeavor has also received **the support of the New Hampshire Lakes Association** <http://nhlakes.org> and the **Northwood Conservation Commission is a co-sponsor**. Ms. Irish has been in contact with Gerald Coogan, Deerfield Planner, and Fred McGarry, Deerfield Planning Board Chair, and has been invited to provide input into the **Planning Board's review of the Pleasant Lake Watershed Overlay and discussion of a separate zoning district for Pleasant Lake**. Ms. Irish received a copy of the watershed ordinance from Fred McGarry who welcomed her suggestions. Ms. Irish's group has also submitted a draft of the section on Funnel Development which has been prepared for the *Watershed Restoration Plan*. Kate Hartnett invited Ms. Irish to attend **the June 11th Planning Board meeting to express her concerns in person**.

Ms. Irish noted that the **Pleasant Lake Association has pledged \$5000**, which could take the form of an in-kind match and be considered toward the required **40% match (\$14,000 based upon a \$35,000 grant)**. Erick Berglund inquired what, if any responsibility would the DCC have if it agreed to provide its support. Ms. Irish indicated the **DCC was welcome to provide an in-kind contribution (time worked, supplies, mileage etc.) but was under no obligation to do so**. The **consensus of the DCC members was for Serita Frey to submit a letter of support** for submission with the funding applications. Ms. Irish will send a draft letter to Chair Frey with appropriate talking points.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the **May 12th meeting were approved** unanimously as written.

Financial Officer's Report: Erick Berglund had no additional information to report beyond the **estimated balance in the Conservation Fund at the end of April of \$250,984**. Mr. Berglund also noted that the payment for the Heath appraisal had been mailed.

New Business:

Volunteer Herb McKinney informed the group that he had been **blazing the Town Forests and Conservation Areas** using the DCC's identifying yellow, circular markers. Mr. McKinney extended an open invitation to anyone wishing to accompany him in his travels and will send out an e-mail with dates and times he expects to head out. Mr. McKinney reports that **Dowst-Cate is approximately 50% complete and Hart is at 75%**. He expects the frontages (tags approximately 25 yards apart) to be completed by the end of the week and noted that the boundaries had previously been well marked by the surveyor.

Deerfield Road Agent, Mark Young, was in attendance at the invitation of the DCC. The purpose of the visit was to **become acquainted and to provide a forum for any questions or concerns and for DCC to provide information on projects of potential interest going forward**. Potential areas of mutual concern were culvert replacement, roads, ditching, flood response, drainage and any work involving wetlands or beaver dam mitigation. Mr. Young and Chair Frey exchanged contact information and Ms. Frey informed Mr. Young that he was welcome to contact any of the members in the future. In turn, Mr. Young indicated that he was available 24/7 to facilitate communication.

Town Forest Protection Project: Serita Frey informed the group that the DCC is on the **BOS agenda for June 30th for the execution of the Easement Deed**. It was unclear whether Jim Raymond's attendance was required since Ms. Frey has not yet received a response to her e-mail to him. Ms. Frey will touch base with Town Administrator, Michael Wright for clarification. Dan Kern will be providing hard copies of the document and it is presumed that Bear Paw will facilitate the recording of the Deed. Erick Berglund will confirm with Mr. Kern. It was suggested that an **announcement that the project has been completed be placed in the Communicator and the Forum after the June 30th signing**. An abbreviated DCC **meeting on July 14th will be followed by an informal celebration**. Invitations will be extended to those who have devoted their time and effort to the project.

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Trails Committee: No new information has been received from Jim Deely. **Erick Berglund reported on his conversation with Town Administrator, Michael Wright.** Since the Trails Committee is a sub-committee of the DCC, the **chair of the Trails Committee, as a sanctioned municipal committee, will need to be a member of the DCC.** There is currently an opening on the DCC for the position previously held by Herb McKinney which could be filled by Jim Deely. With respect to finances, any monies collected in 2014 by the Trails Committee would be classified as *unanticipated revenue* and be held by the Town. **In 2015 the DCC could add a line to its budget for expenditures and revenues** associated with the new sub-committee, which would be reviewed by the MBC as part of the DCC budget process. In the interim, a degree of trust that those funds would be earmarked for use by the Trails Committee would need to exist, with DCC initially covering any necessary expenses from its current budget. **Serita Frey questioned whether grant money would be treated similarly** and Wes Golomb asked whether it would make a difference **if DCC was to write the grant.** **Ms. Frey will follow up with Mr. Deely and copy the members.**

Deb Campelia noted that there has been **interest in promoting walks on the trails**, and suggested spontaneous excursions using e-mail to organize these “flash hikes”. Kate Hartnett once again warned of the **importance of “tick checks”, July being known as the worst month for deer ticks infected with Lyme disease.**

Project #28: Serita Frey updated the members with respect to the conversation she, Erick Berglund and Frank Mitchell had with the landowners in which the **various options were laid out, including the potential two-year time frame needed to acquire funding.** Ms. Frey noted that the application deadline for LCHIP grants was two weeks away and not feasible. Other grant funding opportunities, including funding through the ***Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Program* administered through the NH DES Wetlands Bureau** would not be available until 2015: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/wmp/documents/arm>. Additionally, the purchase may need to be part of a larger project in order to be attractive to funders. Consideration of a Warrant Article for next March was mentioned as well. Further discussion was **tabled until the landowners confirm that they wish to move forward and a non-public session can be scheduled.**

Regulated Wetlands: Concern has been raised over a **large patch of Phragmites growing on property along Route 43.** The owners had been advised a few years ago against alteration of the area which has now resulted in the invasion by this aggressive reed. It was decided that **Serita Frey would send a letter to the owners** and that Kate Hartnett would provide additional informational text and two documents for inclusion with the correspondence. The letter will also include an **invitation to the September meeting to address any questions** the owners may have. It was noted that **application of *glyphosate* for eradication is only available by a licensed certified, pesticide professional** due to the potential adverse aquatic impacts of this biological agent. **Wes Golomb will write an article to raise public awareness.**
[.http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/aquatics/commonreed.shtml](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/aquatics/commonreed.shtml).

Freese Easement Violation: Dave Linden reported on his **conversation with Detective Sergeant Dan Deyermond of the Deerfield Police Department** regarding illegal use of motorized vehicles, previously snowmobiles, and most recently ATV’s, **on Freese Town Forest and Lindsay-Flanders Conservation Area.** Detective Deyermond **suggested Mr. Linden contact Conservation Officer, Mike Matson of NH Fish and Game.** Serita Frey and Kate Hartnett will **draft a letter to be sent to the abutters of both Freese and Lindsay-Flanders,** generally informing them of the prohibition. The BOS should be copied on the correspondence and Ms. Frey will include this issue along with information about the Trails Committee in her future report to the BOS.

Serita Frey adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM.

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The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, July 14th

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