

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2014

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

Members Absent: Erick Berglund, Jim Deely, Wes Golomb

Visitors/Volunteers: Phil Bilodeau, Charlie Moreno

Serita Frey called the meeting to order at **7:00 PM**.

Visitors: **Phil Bilodeau of the Forestry Commission and Forester Charlie Moreno** updated the members on the status of the forestry plans for the Town Forests. Mr. Bilodeau noted that the **BOS had re-appointed Alex Cote to the Forestry Commission** however to date Mr. Cote has not been sworn in.

Mr. Moreno indicated that the trees have been marked and he is **prepared to begin harvesting on Dowst-Cate**. He will be **soliciting bids/proposals for the operation** which will be reviewed by the Forestry Commission and the DCC. Operations on McNeil may also begin at that time. Ms. Frey reminded Mr. Moreno of the **presence of the UNH soil monitoring equipment** and reviewed the route taken by the two old skidder roads that lead to a common landing. Mr. Moreno indicated that the parcel had been thinned approximately 20 years earlier using smaller equipment and proposed that either a **new landing or a revamp of the current entrance may be required**. Serita Frey suggested that this might be an **opportunity to improve the parking area** which according to the easement deed must be within 250 feet of the public roadway with an area no greater than 3000 square feet. According to Mr. Moreno, this would be an added cost and **should be a separate project undertaken by a woods road builder**, but could possibly be performed in conjunction with the logging operation. Mr. Bilodeau felt strongly that there should only be one responsible party for the project. **Members will meet at the site with Mr. Moreno and Mr. Bilodeau on Tuesday, September 16th** to discuss possible landing configurations as well as the equipment to be used depending on the type of operation.

Mr. Moreno responded to Ms. Frey's inquiry that a **harvest of Freese Town Forest would probably only break** even at best due to the type of timber currently available, and that a harvest on this property could wait till a later date. DCC received copies of the **completed Forest Management Plan for Arthur Chase** and was informed that Mr. Moreno has begun **working on the Hart and Wells plans**. Mr. Moreno further indicated that **work on the Alvah Chase plan has not been started** and that he needs a survey of the parcel. Mr. Moreno believes **DCC had previously voted to move ahead with creation of a management plan for Lindsay-Flanders**. Kate Hartnett provided deed and plan recording numbers for the two parcels to Mr. Moreno. **A separate proposal will be provided** for the work since it was not included in the original contract, and **DCC will be invoiced for work performed on Freese, McNeil and Dowst-Cate**. Mr. Moreno will also submit an amended contract with documentation for the additional costs incurred in excess of the original \$10,000 quote, a portion of which has been paid to date.

Approval of Minutes: The **minutes of the July 14th meeting were approved** as written with Dave Linden abstaining. There was no meeting in the month of August.

DCC Budget – FY 2015: Serita Frey announced that she would be **presenting the budget approved at the July meeting to the BOS at their next meeting on Monday, September 15th**. Ms. Frey will explain a **new expenditure line for the Trails Club** with a proposed amount of \$500 to be used for trail and bridge maintenance/repair materials, paint and signage until additional funds can be raised from outside sources.

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Merrill Intent to Cut: Serita Frey, Erick Berglund, Kate Hartnett, Deb Campelia, Frank Mitchell and Phil Auger met with Dana Merrill, Mr. Merrill's son-in-law and grandson, Don Williams (abutter) and Greg Doane (abutter) on Thursday, August 7th, 2014. The following is a summary of the visit:

- **Reviewed plan** to clear, stump and convert to Christmas tree plantation a portion of the 87 acre easement (former Kay Williams CE) during fall/winter 2014 with a spring 2015 planting
- **Discussed production limitations** of the Chatfield-Hollis-Canton soils comprising much of the conserved land vs. the Paxton soil near the house and along Route 107.
- Explained **need to increase riparian buffer** around wetland from 25 feet to 100 feet (scientifically established minimum to reduce nutrient/soil runoff and resulting susceptibility to invasives)
- Expressed **objections to placement of a culvert** channeling flow from the pasture toward the wetland
- Suggested owner **obtain additional input** regarding aspects of the existing plan
- Offered to **conduct a detailed soil characterization study** to be performed by UNH students this fall
- Determined **post-logging and planting follow-up** as well as annual monitoring would be conducted

Chair Frey reported that Mr. Merrill has since indicated that he **will only be harvesting the Paxton soil areas**. **Delineation and soil characterization studies of several areas** on the property will be conducted this fall with results of the sampling expected by mid to late October. The BOS has since approved the Merrill's Intent to Cut.

Phil Auger has reviewed plans for a harvest on the Sylvia Clifford Conservation Easement with forester Robert Graves. It was suggested that DCC perform **outreach to private landowners with conservation easements** to encourage maintaining the quality of their land through good stewardship.

UNH Scientific Research Project-Dowst-Cate: Serita Frey addressed possible **options for improving the solar capabilities** of the low-impact research installation currently set up at Dowst-Cate. The clearing in which it is located has grown over, limiting the ability of the solar batteries powering the monitoring equipment to maintain a charge. A harvest of this property recently scheduled by the Forestry Commission could include the **removal of 5 trees to increase light to the area** or, as is the case with the UNH Saddleback Mountain installation, a **buried conduit could be run from a pole at the road** to the equipment. Members voiced their **preference of having the trees removed as part of the harvest**. Ms. Frey will invite the **technician from UNH to meet with members and Forester Charlie Moreno on September 16th** during the scheduled site visit.

Regulated Wetlands: Serita Frey will **draft a letter to the owners of property on Route 43 to extend an offer from the DCC to assist in managing an outbreak of the invasive plant *Phragmites***, resulting from alteration of the area a few years ago. Kate Hartnett will follow-up with a call **to invite the owners to the October meeting**. <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/aquatics/commonreed.shtml>

Correspondence: DCC is in receipt of the following:

An invoice from Bear-Paw Regional Greenways in the amount of \$54,875.13 for services provided in establishing the Conservation Easement on seven Town Forests and Conservation Areas. As detailed in their letter, this amount includes the **stewardship fee of \$25,000, direct expenses of \$22,525, staff expense of \$7,350** and, in total, is **\$7,124.87 less than their original proposal**. The invoice will be forwarded to Erick Berglund, DCC's Financial Officer, for review in October.

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A Department of Environmental Services Wetland Program Notification of a Minimum Impact Forestry Notification - DES File Number 2014-02145-Coffeetown Road, Deerfield Tax Map 408 Lot 20 returned to the owner, **KDRM LLC**, 41 Sargent Rd., Sandown, NH due to missing information.

A Subsurface Systems Bureau Repair and Replacement Septic Disposal System Application - DES File Number 201402784 for property identified as *Map 418 Lot 4-1, owned by Barry Atwood-111 Mountain Rd.* The application was being returned due to missing information

A Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Bureau Permit Application for owner *Harlinda Webb-Map 411 Lot 4 Mt. Delight Rd.* for construction of a driveway across a small seasonal runoff to access a house site. Originally submitted to DCC for *Expedited Review (Minimum Impact)* which would have required DCC authorization, but subsequently changed to *Standard Review* due to delay posed by timing of the DCC meeting.

Kate Hartnett has volunteered to **contact DES** to determine the reason DCC is receiving DES Subsurface Systems Bureau Septic Disposal System notifications. The DCC has not received these notifications in the past.

Serita Frey adjourned the meeting at **9:10 PM**.

The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, October 20th

(Please check the website for scheduling changes)

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