

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2014

Members Present: Deb Campelia, Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett
Members Absent: Erick Berglund, Jim Deely, Wes Golomb
Remote Participation: Dave Linden
Visitors/Volunteers: Phil Bilodeau

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

Timber Harvest – Dowst Cate Town Forest: Phil Bilodeau of the Forestry Commission reported that he and Charlie Moreno had opened the three, sealed bids at a publicly-noticed meeting of the Forestry Commission on October 14th at 5:30 PM. Mr. Moreno, as the Forester for the Town conservation properties, had been contracted to solicit bids for the timber harvest and sale on behalf of the Forestry Commission and the DCC. Mr. Bilodeau presented a summary of the results, broken down by species/product and estimated revenue from each. **Final revenue will depend on mill rates at the time of delivery.** Mr. Bilodeau will e-mail the wood lot tally for the white pine with tree count and total volume by size. Bid results were as follows:

- **Canterbury Timber – Canterbury, NH**
 - Start Date: February 1, 2015
 - Completion: Summer 2015
 - Est. Net Revenue: \$19,977
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- **G & C Morse & Sons – Lebanon, ME**
 - Start Date: Immediately
 - Completion: January/February 2015
 - Est. Net Revenue: \$22,723
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- **William Perron/WBJ Timber Service – Deerfield, NH**
 - Start Date: June 2015
 - Completion: September 2015
 - Est. Net Revenue: \$22,705

In each case, the **bids included the cost for the landing.** Although the exact location has not been finalized, there was a **preference for creating a new opening as opposed to using the current entrance** to the site. There was no significant difference in revenue between G & C Morse & Sons and William Perron/WBJ Timber; however the **members were in favor of the immediate start date and winter harvest proposed by G & C Morse & Sons.** Based upon the bids, Mr. Moreno's recommendations, and input of DCC members, **Forestry will move ahead with the harvest.**

Jan Foisy, the Town's Finance Director, was briefly consulted and informed the members and Mr. Bilodeau that **a Bonds Escrow Account had been set up in the budget for the Forestry Fund in the amount of \$1600.00** into which **proceeds from the harvest can accumulate.** The Forestry Commission had previously agreed to **use a portion of these proceeds to reimburse the DCC** for expenses it has incurred in the preparation of the forest management plans for the Town Forests. **A Warrant Article will need to be created by the Forestry Commission authorizing the expenditure and its reimbursement.**

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Finance: Serita Frey presented **an invoice received in late August 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.** Erick Berglund has reviewed a copy of the invoice and recommended payment.

At the suggestion of Chair Frey, the members present agreed **to avoid further delay of a vote to authorize payment.** To that end, in the absence of a quorum, and **as authorized under RSA 91-A:2 III,** at 7:40 PM a **call was placed to Dave Linden** who was physically absent from the meeting, recovering from surgery. **Mr. Linden was placed on speaker phone and through his remote presence, became the fourth member, forming a quorum.** A **motion was then made by Serita Frey for payment of the Bear-Paw invoice with a second by Deb Campelia.** The motion passed unanimously with **Dave Linden, Kate Hartnett, Deb Campelia and Serita Frey each voting in favor of the motion by roll call vote,** after which the call to Mr. Linden was terminated. The meeting then continued without the benefit of a quorum.

Merrill (Kay Williams) Easement Update: Serita Frey reported that **72 UNH students conducted two field trips in mid-September, digging soil pits and taking soil samples on the Merrill property** in an effort to identify the growth potential of various areas on the **site of the proposed Christmas Tree Farm.** Written reports are forthcoming after a review of the data which will include the **identification and location of multiple soil types and their nutrient compositions.** Chair Frey noted that Mr. Merrill had not yet started his harvest and that she would be e-mailing field research results to him this week.

Easement Monitoring: Serita Frey will be speaking with Frank Mitchell regarding the **annual monitoring of Freese Town Forest, Map 410 Lot 32.** In 2013, Frank Mitchell, Kate Hartnett, Herb McKinney and Will Frey performed the oversight. As noted in their report to the state, they were able to walk and observe **all but a part of the western boundary with blown down trees.** (See Minutes 12/9/2013). Chair Frey will also mention the **need to annually monitor the Merrill (Kay Williams) easement Map 405 Lot 84** as part of DCC's stewardship responsibilities.

2014 LCIP monitoring forms were delivered to Al Jaeger who performs the annual walk-thru on behalf of the DCC. Since the **report for the Curry (Duchano) property on Bean Hill Rd.** is not among those completed by Mr. Jaeger, Chair Frey asked for a volunteer. **Deb Campelia agreed to contact the owner** to make the arrangements and will also request the assistance of Herb McKinney, who has walked this parcel in the past.

Regulated Wetlands:

Phragmites Update: Serita Frey noted that a letter to the owners and an invitation to attend a DCC meeting to discuss the invasive species on their property is still pending.

Correspondence:

DCC has received the following correspondence and notifications:

A Department of Environmental Services Complete Forestry Notification - DES File Number 2014-02145-Coffeetown Road, Deerfield Tax Map 408 Lot 20, authorization to begin work, issued to owner KDRM LLC, 41 Sargent Rd., Sandown, NH.

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A Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Bureau Permit #2014-02240 granted to fill 385 sq. ft. of wetland and installation of a 19' x 15" culvert to construct a driveway to serve a single-family residential lot issued to owner Harlinda Webb-Map 411 Lot 4 Mt. Delight Rd

A copy of correspondence from *Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee* to David Price at the Wetlands Bureau, NH DES offering its comments on the PSNH G146 Transmission Line Thermal Uprate (Bow to Deerfield).

An invoice from the *New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions* for **annual dues in the amount of \$303.00**. Serita Frey will e-mail a copy of the organization's **Annual Survey** which asks for input on how the organization can be improved. Ms. Frey asked that DCC members **prepare comments to the questions posed**, which can then be discussed at the November meeting for possible submission to NHACC.

Chair Frey also announced that **registration is now open for NHACC's 44th Annual Meeting** to be held on Saturday, **November 1st** at Laconia Middle School. The theme is *Inspiring Young Conservationists*. The following link will take you to the registration page and additional links to the schedule and workshops.

<http://www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting44/>

Serita Frey adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, November 17th

(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