

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2015

Members Present: Erick Berglund, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden
Members Absent: Deb Campelia, Jim Deely, Serita Frey
Visitors: Rick Van de Poll

In the absence of Chair Serita Frey, acting Chair Kate Hartnett called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Scheduled guest, **Rick Van de Poll, a systems-based ecologist and environmental consultant**, was present to share the data compiled in a **report commissioned by the Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative (NALMC)**. The organization describes itself as “...a group of neighbors in and around Northwood, New Hampshire working together to connect with each other and to the land through an appreciation of the natural world”. http://nalmc.net/index_MJ4I.html.

NALMC’s **collaborative model of communication, education and outreach** covers both public and private land in Northwood and surrounding towns within the upper Lamprey River Watershed. The **McNeil Conservation Area and Saddleback Mountain in Deerfield are among the conserved lands within the “NALMC neighborhood”**, and as such, were part of the recent **Level II land management assessment of twenty-two parcels**. Infrared aerial mapping resulted in a differentiation of wetlands and forests and allowed for the delineation of wetland boundaries which were notable on both the *Timber Harvest Potential Map*, which included **a rating system identifying restrictive features**, and the *Natural Community Type Map*. The Wildlife Action Plan was also considered in the calculation of the restrictive point value.

Mr. Van de Poll used a variety of plans to produce the reports. **Building on data from the existing McNeil forest management plan** created by Deerfield town forester Charlie Moreno, Mr. Van de Poll was able to **more specifically identify “...some remarkable ecological attributes that underscore its value as a conservation property in Deerfield”** as noted in his parcel summary. There is evidence that among its common hardwood types, **two Beech forests provide excellent habitat for bear**, and it was noted that the parcel may provide a **unique ecological contribution by possibly having some of the best growing conditions in the NALMC area**. Based upon his findings, Mr. Van de Poll has **suggested a more restricted approach to forestry** by using the enhanced information to properly manage the property.

Although no specific action is proposed for McNeil, it was suggested that **integration of the Moreno forestry plan with information from the Bear-Paw 2014 Natural Resources Inventory Maps and the NALMC report would result in the best-informed strategies for timber harvest and stewardship activities**. It is expected that the final report will be completed by the end of the month to be followed-up with stewardship activities. **Mr. Van de Poll was invited to attend the September 14th meeting to which Charlie Moreno and representatives from Bear-Paw and the Forestry Commission will be invited to collaborate on improvements to the existing McNeil management plan.**

Approval of Minutes: The **minutes of the June 8th meeting** were reviewed and approved with one abstention by Wes Golomb who was not in attendance in June.

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Finance: Erick Berglund reported that **as of April 30th the Conservation Fund had a balance of \$229,447.21.** The fund balances for **May and June are still pending.**

Members approved a request that **Mr. Berglund prepare and submit the proposed 2016 budget prior to their review.** Mr. Berglund noted that for fiscal year 2015, the **Commission is operating under the default budget,** which, although greater than the amount originally requested for 2015, **does not provide funding for the Trails Committee.** Mr. Berglund will forward a copy of the proposed 2016 budget to the members when complete.

Town Forest Protection: It was decided that **Dave Linden would invite Dan Kern of Bear-Paw to the August 3rd meeting** to discuss the financial aspects of holding an easement **on the Edythe H. Boisvert Town Forest, Map 404 Lot 2** for the permanent protection of the property.

Land Conservation: Members informally discussed potential opportunities.

Solar Up New Hampshire: Wes Golomb reported there have been **approximately thirty calls expressing interest in the programs in Deerfield and Candia.** Meetings are scheduled in Deerfield on Saturday, August 1st at Noon, and in Candia on Sunday, August 2nd at Noon.

Sestercentennial: Wes Golomb has **framed some of the photos for the DCC display at the 2016 celebration** and will contact Kelly Roberts regarding the particulars. Kate Hartnett will work with Mr. Golomb to **compose the corresponding text.**

Regulated Wetlands: The DCC has received copies of the following:

Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification File #2015-01657 for work in Deerfield, Tax Map 209 Lot 010 owned by Aaron B. Cady, Meetinghouse Hill Rd.

Shoreland Impact Permit #2015-01137 for Timothy Hahn, 2 Skidoo Ln. (Pleasant Lake), Tax Map 206 Lot 17 issued for work impacting 200 sq. ft. in order to redesign a storm water receptor to go around the existing foundation.

A Standard Review Wetlands Permit Application on behalf of the Thomas W. Goodridge, 13 Baker Ave., (Northwood Lake), Tax Map 201 Lot 31, to *reconstruct a deteriorated rocky shoreline. Stairs are to be installed. Storm water measures to be installed. Work to be done in the dry.*

Correspondence: The DCC has received the following:

A Letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding a *Risk Mapping Assessment and Planning* (Risk MAP) discovery meeting for the Merrimack Watershed, to gather information about local flood risk and flood hazard and to review mitigation plans in order to help identify, assess and reduce flood risk.

An invitation to the 2015 Summer Timber Talk: Northern Long-Eared Bat informational session sponsored by the *NH Timberland Owners Association* and co-sponsored by *UNH Cooperative Extension, the USDA-Forest Service, and NH Forests and Lands (DRED)* to be conducted on July 27 from 6 to 8 PM at 309 Center Rd, Hillsborough and July 29th at WMNF Headquarters from 6 to 8 PM at 71 White Mountain Dr., Campton. To register, call the NHTOA office at (603)-224-9699.

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BOS Update: Members suggested the following for the monthly update of the Board of Selectmen:

- DCC is aware of and very concerned about the financial, safety and ecological impacts of the spread of Japanese Knotweed and Phragmites.
- DCC is inviting representatives from Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, the Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative (NALMC), the Town Forestry Commission, and Forester Charlie Moreno to its September meeting to discuss refinement of the McNeil forest management plan.
- DCC wishes to resolve an issue of the posting of “No Trespassing” signs by a private individual on town-owned land (Tax Map 405 Lot 98/99 – the *SusanYeaton* parcel).

Kate Hartnett adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, August 3rd

(Please check the website for scheduling changes)
townofdeerfieldnh.com

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