

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – October 19, 2015

Members Present: Erick Berglund, Deb Campelia, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett
Members Absent: Dave Linden, Jim Deely
Visitors Preset: Joanna Waring, Mark Young, Dan Kern

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM after which visitor and new resident Joanna Waring was welcomed by the members.

Invasive Plants: Deerfield Road Agent, Mark Young updated the members on the **status of Japanese Knotweed eradication efforts by the Highway Department.** The Town has contracted for three years with Prescott Towle (Invasive Weed and Plant Control, LLC) to spray the affected areas. The first application was completed at a cost of \$1200 with **subsequent treatments scheduled for next June and fall of 2016.** Mr. Young confirmed that the company is certified to treat wetlands and **Kate Hartnett will be contacting the company to discuss options for eradication of the stands of Phragmites on route 43.** Jim Deely spoke with abutters of the affected area who appeared to be open to in approaching the problem as a neighborhood; however, funding the project is an issue. Mr. Young expressed his appreciation for the work the DCC is doing and the members thanked Mr. Young for his cooperation.

Boisvert Town Forest-Permanent Protection: Serita Frey has **requested that Bear-Paw Regional Greenways provide a quote for the cost of placing and holding an easement on the Boisvert Town Forest in order to permanently protect the town-owned property.** Mr. Kern suggested that rather than creating a separate easement, it may be possible to simply **add the Boisvert parcel to the 2014 easement deed** if its intended uses fit the criteria contained in the document. Mr. Kern will consult with Bear-Paw attorneys to determine if adding the parcel would be allowed within the legal framework of the easement granted to Bear-Paw which encumbered the *Arthur Chase Town Forest, Dowst-Cate Town Forest and Park, Hart Town Forest, Lindsay/Flanders Conservation Area, the Agnes B. McNeil Conservation Area, Weiss Town Forest, and the Wells Town Forest.* If so, the baseline documentation would be developed for the tract and this streamlined approach could reduce both preparation time and costs.

Serita Frey urged the members to **re-read the existing easement deed, which Dan Kern suggested should be reviewed in detail, especially noting any provisions in the deed that would not be appropriate for the Boisvert parcel.** Chair Frey will proactively consult with Town Counsel, Jim Raymond regarding the proposed inclusion. Mr. Kern will return in November with a quote for the project. Bear-Paw will handle the RFP's for the survey.

Land Conservation: There is **continued interest in expanding existing conserved areas within the Lamprey headwaters** and efforts are ongoing to stay abreast of any opportunities that may arise. It was suggested **that additional state and federal funding sources might be available given the regional significance and scope of potential projects.** DCC will continue to follow up on new prospects.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 14th meeting were reviewed, and the discussion on the *McNeil Town Forest* was modified as noted below in red, after which they were approved with Erick Berglund abstaining.

Charlie Moreno, Town Forester, Frank Mitchell, Bear Paw, Rick Van de Poll, NALMC, and Phil Bilodeau, Forestry Committee were present for this discussion.

Finance: Erick Berglund submitted the Conservation Fund activity for August and September. The August beginning balance was \$238,784.08. August and September interest of \$30.42 and \$29.44 respectively resulted in a **balance at the end of September of \$238,843.94.**

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Mr. Berglund presented a revised budget for 2016 with an increase for dues, also stating that the proposed **inclusion of \$200 for the Trails club would require a more detailed explanation in order to gain MBC approval.** Although it was understood that the funds would be used to purchase signs and trail markers, it was suggested that Mr. Deely personally present the Trails portion of the budget to the MBC and that the specifics needed to be in writing or should be taken out of the budget. A **motion to accept the revised 2016 budget was made and unanimously approved.**

A request for the **payment of invoices** in the amounts of \$100 for the *Lamprey River Watershed Association* 2016 dues, \$333 for the *NH Association of Conservation Commissions* dues, and \$100 for *Bear-Paw* dues was unanimously approved.

Solar-Up: Wes Golomb announced that currently **51 new photovoltaic systems are scheduled to be installed** in Deerfield and Candia.

Interim Chair: Serita Frey asked for volunteers to assume the chairman's duties in her absence during the months of November through February. **Kate Hartnett volunteered to act as the interim chairperson.**

Fall Monitoring: Serita Frey will **email copies of Frank Mitchell's Bear-Paw monitoring schedule for fall 2015.** Deb Campelia has volunteered to accompany Mr. Mitchell during his site visits and **all members were encouraged to participate.** **Kate Hartnett will write a letter to Dana Merrill** to set up a time for Frank Mitchell to monitor the Kay Williams Easement, post- completion of field preparations for the tree farm (see also NHDES correspondence below).

Posting on Freese: Serita Frey has responded to an **email from a hunter who was confused by the conflicting signage on Freese.** Two signs are posted side by side which read "*Caution-Multi-Use Recreation Area*" and "*SAFETY ZONE – No Hunting Beyond This Point*". Given the narrow entrance to Freese and its proximity to houses on both sides, raising concerns of the abutters, *Fish and Game* had recommended the referenced placement. Chair Frey explained in her reply that the gentleman was welcome to hunt as long as he maintained the **300 foot distance from roadways and occupied dwellings** outlined in the safety zone rules. There are no plans at this time to alter the sign placement. Deb Campelia informed the members that **free signs are available from NH Fish and Game's Landowner Relationship Department** and can be ordered on line for pickup at <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/landshare/ols.html>

Northern Pass: Erick Berglund reported that **Northern Pass had filed its application for site approval with the NH Site Evaluation Committee** and that he anticipates public meetings will be held within 45 days of filing. A recent decision to bury additional cable has delayed finalization of the Department of Energy's *Environmental Impact Statement*. Mr. Berglund **urged members to voice their opinions and express their support of burial at the public meetings,** and by writing letters and sending emails to the SEC and DOE. **Mr. Berglund will research addresses for contacts.** Burial could also generate additional tax revenue for the Town if a converter station was located in Deerfield.

Trails: Monitoring the Facebook page for the Trails Club on behalf of the DCC has caused Deb Campelia to wonder if **official stewardship of the trails could be undertaken by those who have already been unofficially providing stewardship.** Standardized methods of blazing and marking would be adopted.

Sestercentennial: Deb Campelia announced that she is now a certified *Speaking for Wildlife Volunteer* resulting from her recent training through *UNH Cooperative Extension*, and is currently qualified to give talks on five topics. Ms. Campelia may be able to utilize her new skills as part of DCC's contribution to the Sestercentennial activities and welcomes opportunities for practice.

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Ms. Campelia also informed the members that **Ellen O'Donnell's 8th grade students at DCS are conducting an owl survey as part of an ecology project** which included the creation of a website for identification of owls and their calls. The students are asking that residents assist them in their collection of data by participating in an on-line survey. The website is <https://sites.google.com/a/sau53.org/owl-survey/>

Regulated Wetlands/Correspondence: DCC has received the following:

- A report of an inspection to determine compliance with *RSA 485-A:17, Terrain Alteration statute* - DES Forestry Notification #2015-00253 (NHDES Land Resource Management File EMD #3063) for **Dana Merrill, 185 North Rd., Map 405 Lot 84**. It was noted that *...the site appeared stable at the time of the inspection with some vegetation present on a majority of the area, and ...the property is in compliance with the requirements of ENV-Wq 1503.04* which, in part addresses performance in accordance with *Best Management Practices for Erosion Control on Timber Harvesting Operations*. Based upon the inspection it was further noted that the property was in compliance with the requirements of Env-Wq 1502.40 relative to the owner's proposed plans for expansion of the Christmas tree farm. At the request of the DCC, a copy of the DES correspondence was being forwarded by David Price of the DES to the *Pleasant Lake Preservation Association* in response to concerns previously expressed by the *PLPA*.
- A *Request for More Information* relating to NHDES Wetlands File #2015-02105 **Trout Unlimited/Graykin – Lamprey River – Old Coffeetown Rd** which requests **documentation of stream degradation necessitating restoration, the applicant's response to concerns in a letter of objection from an LRAC member and DES' direction to coordinate with Deerfield Public Works** to verify that... *addition of woody debris to this system, if dislodged, will not represent a potential hazard to downstream infrastructure...* (See also minutes of April 13, 2015 for **Trout Unlimited's** presentation to the DCC to obtain its approval, required for the *Expedited Application* process) (Note: LRAC was copied on this notice)
- A response to a *Request for More Information* from DES Wetlands Bureau referencing Standard *Dredge and Fill* application File #2015-01470 for **Thomas W. Goodridge – 13 Baker Ave. – Map 201 Lot 31** addressing *...the need to impact the shoreline, alternative with the least impact to wetlands and surface waters, replanting plans meeting the requirements of Shoreland Protection Administrative Rules, tree point information, heavy equipment operation in the lake bed, and additional permitting needed for placement of 4 inches of top soil between the bank and the house, and construction of a drainage swale.*
- A DES *Wetlands Permit Application – Water Division/Wetlands Bureau – Land Resources Management* filed on behalf of **Eversource Energy Service Corporation** for the Northern Pass transmission line project.

Serita Frey adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, November 9th
(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