

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2016

**Members Present:** Deb Campelia, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden, Jim Deely  
**Absent:** Serita Frey, Erick Berglund  
**Visitors:** George Chadwick (Bedford Design), Sharon Meeker (LRAC), Preston Samuel (LRAC), Catalina Celentano, (Eversource, Community Relations Specialist, New Hampshire - Eastern Region), Kurt Nelson (Eversource, Specialist, Project Siting & Permitting Licensing & Permitting Department), Frank Mitchell, Jeanne Menard, Phil Bilodeau

The meeting was **called to order at 7:10 PM** by Interim Chair, Kate Hartnett.

**Regulated Wetlands:** George Chadwick of Bedford Design Consultants, **presented subdivision plans for Map 411 Lot 45-8 (located on Corey Rd. at the end of Browns Mill Rd off Mt. Delight Rd.) on behalf of BMI Realty Trust.** The owner is seeking the approval of the DCC on an *Expedited Minimum Impact Wetland Application* for a proposed **driveway crossing impacting 400 SF of poorly drained wetlands**, which would service two of the proposed lots.

Mr. Chadwick explained that the subdivision of the parcel **would result in a reconfiguration and consolidation of the original 2006 subdivision's dedicated easement which was undesirably fragmented.** Not only would the easement increase in size to 29.7 Acres, but there is **renewed potential for facilitating access into the NH Fish and Game's Corey Wildlife Management Area** which abuts the subdivision. Wes Golomb questioned if there was any plan for a community solar installation. Mr. Chadwick responded that the current plan was to sell the lots individually. Later discussion among the members resulted in a motion by Jim Deely with a second by Dave Linden to waive any DCC objections, followed by the unanimous approval of the proposed work, **allowing for expedited review by the DES.**

**Norther Pass Transmission Project - Local Wetlands Review:**

At the request of Northern Pass, **two representatives from Eversource, Catalina Celentano, (Eversource, Community Relations Specialist, New Hampshire - Eastern Region) and Kurt Nelson (Eversource, Specialist, Project Siting & Permitting Licensing & Permitting Department), attended the meeting to address DCC concerns regarding the Northern Pass Wetlands Application, received by the DCC in November of 2015.** Their request follows up on the November 16, 2015 letter to the Site Evaluation Committee objecting to the functional inaccessibility of town specific data in the application, and the inadequate time allowed for response.

Acting Chair Hartnett reviewed the **main purpose for the meeting, which was to convey directly to Eversource the challenges of local review and reply to the wetlands application as required by RSA.** She had invited two representatives from a regional entity, the Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee, as well as Deerfield resident Frank Mitchell (familiar with wetland assessment), Jeanne Menard (BOS Liaison to the NPT), and Deerfield resident Phil Bilodeau (abutter to the proposed expanded substation), to share their experiences as well.

As requested, Ms. Celentano provided the names of two Northern Pass contacts for Deerfield: **Lee Carbonneau, Sr. Principal Scientist – Normandeau Associates, and Jake Tinus, Project Manager, Environmental Studies & Permitting – Burns & McDonnell.**

**Preston Samuel from the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC)** then spoke. He is a civil engineer with considerable national and international professional experience with complex permitting processes. Mr. Samuel is on a subcommittee of the LRAC that routinely reviews DES wetland applications, and has personally reviewed many Normandeau and Eversource Plans. **Mr. Samuel spent in excess of 20 hours reviewing the Wetland Application and was "floored" by the complexity of the applications contained on the USB drive.** He commented that the plans were confusing, even for an experienced person, citing inconsistent symbols on drawings and the lack of consolidation of data for any given town. He expressed concerns for potential misinterpretation by volunteers or landowners who may not understand the plans, even if they devoted the extensive time required to locate relevant maps. **Mr. Samuel concluded that the format of the application is too difficult to reasonably use, and that the time allowed for volunteer review is insufficient.** His project specific comments were conveyed in the November 9, 2015 letters to NHDES Wetlands, Shoreland, and Alteration of Terrain staff.

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**Phil Bilodeau, also an engineer, and Deerfield resident whose property abuts the existing Eversource substation (which is slated for significant expansion as a result of the project) is of the opinion that his property will be impacted more severely than any other in Deerfield.** He voiced the difficulty he has encountered attempting to extract and interpret specific information for his property from the Wetland Application.

**Jim Deely, DCC member, is familiar with GIS analysis. He noted that the impact areas on the maps are not transparent, and so obscure the nature of the underlying resource.** He felt that anyone trying to review the permit would benefit from obtaining the GIS data.

**Frank Mitchell agreed.** Frank had tried to use the application now posted on the Town website to find the proposed impacts in Deerfield. **He noted that Alteration of Terrain and Shoreland impacts were organized by Town, but for Wetlands, all he could find was a summary of acreage.** He voiced his opinion that **use of the NH Method (for inventorying and evaluating freshwater wetlands in NH) would be both valuable and appropriate.**  
<http://nhmethod.org/>

**The representatives admitted, at 3 full binders and over 700 pages, to the enormity of the wetland data presented;** however stated it was not an attempt to mislead the towns. **Mr. Nelson acknowledged that DCC presented a valid critique,** and although Eversource did not have control over the SEC process, **suggested that it would be best for DCC to go through the SEC process for higher level concerns to get them on record.** It was further conceded that the **Deerfield-specific information DCC is requesting is probably there, but is difficult to locate and compile.**

**Jeanne Menard, Deerfield Selectboard NPT Liaison, once again urged the DCC to file the application for the motion to intervene.** She noted that being granted intervenor status **would not obligate the DCC to participate** in the SEC process; however it **opens the door to DCC's participation should the need arise.** Ms. Menard also suggested that DCC could **request the SEC to make site visits to understand specific situations.** She stated that the BOS is filing a motion to intervene and that she would provide a template to the DCC in advance of the February 5<sup>th</sup> filing deadline.

**Sharon Meeker, from the LRAC, recognized the opportunity for 31 conservation commissions to collaborate to improve the review process for this project, and the outcome on the ground.** Asked if LRAC would consider partnering with the DCC in the commission's motion to intervene, Ms. Meeker responded that this would be an LRAC policy decision

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the **December meeting were approved unanimously by the members present.**

**Finance:** Erick Berglund submitted a financial report in advance of the meeting. **The balance in the conservation fund at the end of November was \$240,231.04 which reflects interest in the amount of \$29.61.**

**Phragmites:** **Members discussed the potential of a collaborative solution for the mitigation of the stand of Phragmites** in the wetland on Route 43. Jim Deely will report back with the outcome of his conversation with one of the abutters. Kate Hartnett **commended the Town for taking a leadership position in addressing the Japanese Knotweed problem along Town roadsides.**

**Easement Monitoring:** Deb Campelia reported that **Mark Tibbetts agreed to remove the discarded tires found during monitoring of the Lindsay-Flanders Conservation Area** and that she and Herb McKinney have partnered to tag the boundaries. Ms. Campelia has followed up the tire removal with a thank-you note to Mr. Tibbetts.

**A reminder to submit the completed LCIP Monitoring reports for the year 2015** was received from Steve Walker of the *NH Office of Energy and Planning*. The forms for Great Brook were delivered to Al Jaeger but DCC has not as yet received word of their status. The Curry parcel was just recently monitored by Deb Campelia and will be scheduled for review later in 2016.

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**Dowst-Cate Trail Work:** Jim Deely reported that a call put out to members of the Trails Committee has resulted in 14 volunteers who are willing to assist in flagging the trails at Dowst-Cate. The work is anticipated for January.

**Erick Berglund forwarded a historical copy of a Concord Monitor article reporting Gilbert Knowles' 1983 gift of land to the Town of Deerfield.** The referenced parcel is now known as the *Dowst-Cate Town Forest & Park*, and is the gift that keeps on giving!

Happy Birthday DCC (soon!) The Clerk also presented copies of both the **1966 and 1967 town reports**. The 1966 town report contained a **March 14, 1967 warrant article, passage of which resulted in the formation of the Deerfield Conservation Commission**. That means DCC will be 50 in 2017. The DCC's first report to the town and original list of members was found in the 1967 town report. Digitized versions of town reports can be found on the UNH website at: [https://www.library.unh.edu/digital/islandora/solr/search/%2520/1/category%3ANH%5C%20Cities%5C%20%2526%5C%20Towns~slsh~Deerfield\\*~/dismax](https://www.library.unh.edu/digital/islandora/solr/search/%2520/1/category%3ANH%5C%20Cities%5C%20%2526%5C%20Towns~slsh~Deerfield*~/dismax)

**Members signed a letter lending DCC's support to an initiative opposing the opening of a trapping and hunting season for Bobcats** currently being proposed by the *NH Fish and Game Commission*. A public hearing is scheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Correspondence/Announcements:** DCC has received the following:

**John Thibodeau – Map 410 Lot 111 (37 Meetinghouse Hill Rd) Wetland Program Notification**  
*NHDES File #2016-00009 – Application Returned Due to Missing Information*

**An announcement from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions** informing DCC of the resignation of NHACC Executive Director Nik Coates. Former NHACC Executive Director Carol Andrews will serve in that capacity in the interim.

Interim Chair Kate Hartnett **adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM.**

**The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**  
*(Please check the website for scheduling changes)*  
[townofdeerfieldnh.com](http://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*