

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2017

Members Present: Erick Berglund, Deb Campelia, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett
Members Absent: Jim Deely
Visitors: None

At 7:04 pm Chair Serita Frey called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: A motion by Serita Frey to approve the minutes from the December 5th regular meeting was seconded by Wes Golomb. After discussion, the following revisions were made:

Edits to 12/5/2016 Meeting Minutes

(Page 1– Paragraph 2)

...Erick Berglund felt that Phil Bilodeau from the Forestry Commission should be engaged to collaborate on the update. *Incorrect reference to the DOSP. Statement moved to the end of:*

(Page 1 – Paragraph 3)

...Erick Berglund felt that Phil Bilodeau from the Forestry Commission should be engaged to collaborate on the update **survey**. *Reference should have been to Town and Community Forest Survey*

(Page 1 – Paragraph 7)

...Ms. Hartnett **presented** wrote comments **from the Planning Board** on *Orderly Development* submitted to the **Northern Pass NH Site Evaluation Committee** on November 15th and **her comments for DCC on Environment are due** ~~subsequently received data requests to prove her points, and are due~~ by December ~~31st~~ 30th. She has been working with Chair Frey on those. Given the tight time deadlines, no other DCC members requested review or input. She also is preparing replies to an **Orderly Development Data Request**, also due by December 30th. DCC members thanked her for her work.

A motion by Serita Frey to approve the **minutes from the January 9th regular meeting** was seconded by Erick Berglund. The minutes were approved as submitted with Serita Frey abstaining.

Finance: Mr. Berglund reported the balance in the **Conservation Fund on December 31st was \$310,324.15 reflecting interest of \$39.52**. Mr. Berglund moved to approve **a down payment of \$4,000 to come from the Conservation Fund, on the Berry Surveying and Engineering contract** for survey work to be performed on the Boisvert Town Forest. Serita Frey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Northern Pass Update: Serita Frey commended Ms. Hartnett for her efforts. Mr. Berglund echoed Chair Frey's sentiments and wished to note that Deerfield was fortunate to have willing volunteers who are either retired or have work schedules that allow them to attend these multiple, day-long sessions to protect Deerfield's interests. Ms. Hartnett noted that there have been **in excess of 22 technical sessions since this fall, on multiple topics, that have been attended by volunteers representing the Deerfield community**. The demands posed by the NPT project on Deerfield's volunteers and elected officials has interfered with their ability to effectively carry out their primary volunteer and elected functions.

Kate Hartnett reported that **Conservation Commission (and Planning Board) meeting minutes have been requested by 6 Feb 2017 as part of the data requests from Northern Pass attorneys after her January 23, 2017 appearance as a representative of the Conservation Commission addressing local environmental impacts**. Ms. Hartnett is fully engaged in the process and there are many documents involved. Ms. Hartnett will be submitting support for her statements that the **Northern Pass Transmission Project design plans "will ensure total destruction" of the vernal pool east of Thurston Pond Road in Deerfield**. In addition, Ms.

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Hartnett has been asked to provide documentation supporting her statements that **high towers and lines would increase the incidence of avian collision with transmission lines. That data request is due on 15 Feb 2017.**

Ms. Hartnett is working with volunteer Frank Mitchell on the vernal pool data and has been asked to submit the results of their work to the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) which is the body that regulates wetlands and pools in the State of New Hampshire. The vernal pool cited in the report is one of the top three in the 192 mile corridor, and if covered with “temporary” wetland matting for in excess of two years, will be destroyed.

Ms. Hartnett is also preparing supplemental, pre-filed testimony (due March 15th) on the NPT project’s impacts on deep organic soils and wetlands which would affect approximately 214,000 square feet or roughly 5 acres in Deerfield specifically. Serita Frey will be assisting in the preparation of this report which, after review by DCC members, will be submitted to the DES Wetlands Bureau. **Erick Berglund moved to approve submission of the referenced report to the DES. Serita Frey provided a second to the motion which was approved unanimously.** Once again Serita Frey expressed DCC’s appreciation for the work that Ms. Hartnett was doing in her capacity as DCC’s Northern Pass representative.

Membership Update: Memberships for Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett and Jim Deely will expire on March 31st. **Serita Frey made three individual motions, with seconds by Erick Berglund, to request re-appointment for Wes Golomb, for Kate Hartnett, and for Jim Deely.** Each of the motions was approved unanimously with the exception of Kate Hartnett’s, in which Ms. Hartnett abstained.

Easement Monitoring:

Lindsay-Flanders Conservation Area – Off Cole Rd: Deb Campelia emailed photos of damage to the conservation parcel and confirmed that she has **contacted Deerfield Police to make them aware of the ongoing unauthorized use of ATV’s.** The BOS and the Deerfield Police have also received copies of the letter that went out to abutters of the parcel on January 4th. **Serita Frey responded to a call from resident/abutter Vicki Martin** who had received one of the letters. Ms. Martin expressed concern about the activity, especially that of illegal dumping of enormous tires. Ms. Campelia reported that last week she had observed new activity coming in from Nichols Brook despite having blocked three breaches in the stone wall, and that **vehicles were going over the stone walls.**

Kate Hartnett strongly **suggested DCC contact Mike Matson Conservation Officer for NH Fish and Game** which regulates ATV use. Ms. Campelia will make the call but would like to pinpoint the actual source of the activity before doing so. DCC is doing what is appropriate at this time and will decide on the next steps to be taken after Ms. Campelia contacts Fish & Game.

McNeil Conservation Area – Blake’s Hill Rd: **Wheeled vehicle tracks, a breach in a stone wall and signs of timber trespass were discovered during routine monitoring** by Kate Hartnett, Frank Mitchell and volunteers. It is unknown if the cutting was deliberate or incidental to logging on the abutting property which appeared to have been cut within the last year. Options discussed for handling the issue included alerting the County Forester or writing the Northwood BOS. Wes Golomb recommended against starting with a formal complaint. It was decided to attempt to contact the owner and extend an invitation to attend a DCC meeting. The clerk will contact Northwood Assessing to obtain the owner information for the abutting property.

Clifford Easement – Mt. Delight Rd: DCC was notified that **during recent monitoring activity, a volunteer had discovered a pile of gravel that had been “dumped” on the property.** The monitor suggested that it

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may have been left by either an abutter or a utility company. Kate Hartnett noted that the pile was small, consisting of fine material, and **may have been left-over fill from pole setting activity by NH Electric Co-op on the right-of-way**, as opposed to actual unauthorized dumping activity. It was decided that the best strategy was to **monitor the site for one year and ensure that there is no increase in size.**

Members were asked to think about volunteers who might wish to participate in **Frank Mitchell's easement monitoring training** as well as **volunteers willing to assist Al Jaeger** in monitoring the six Great Brook Corridor properties

Town Forest Protection:

Boisvert Town Forest – Permanent Protection: Serita Frey will contact Dan Kern from Bear-Paw with respect to the template he is using to create the **easement deed for the Boisvert Town Forest**. It was noted that the same template **would be appropriate for project #31.**

Easements and Land Protection:

Project #31: This is a **complex project, having both historic and land conservation significance, with many parties cooperating. DCC will be working with Dan Kern at Bear-Paw Regional Greeways to submit an application to the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)** Since LCHIP funding covers projects having both land conservation and historic components, it is believed that this project will be a good fit. The application process begins in May.

Project #33: Serita Frey reported that the **owners had taken the property off the market**, hoping to obtain their asking price, which DCC had found to be higher than its appraised valuation.

Brown's Mill:

Kate Hartnett reported on the **progress being made in conserving the open space associated with the Brown's Mill subdivision on Mt. Delight Rd.** Ms. Hartnett reported she is working with NH Fish & Game and the developer's attorney, and reported they are close to completing the easement deed, which is an adaptation of DCC's town forest easement template. The developer is paying for the associated legal costs.

The soon-to-be preserved **area is adjacent to the Corey Wildlife Management Area**, and when completed, the land will be managed under a conservation easement held by the Town of Deerfield, as resident-owned open space, including a parking area and boulder-lined access to Corey WMA. One exciting aspect of this project is that **an old gravel pit, consisting of dry, exposed, well drained soils, will be reclaimed in a unique manner that will create a habitat for bank swallows, turtles/reptiles and other small creatures** in keeping with the goals of the NH Wildlife Action Plan. *Easement Purposes* would include "... protecting and conserving critical habitats, and threatened and endangered animals or other at-risk species and to ensure the protection and sound management of natural resources including the protection of wildlife bio-diversity and habitat preservation."

Open Space Plan Update: An update from volunteer Linda Lee is anticipated in the near future.

New Hampshire GRANIT Update: The clerk is working with the assistance of Anne Deely to update the NH GRANIT Layer for Deerfield which is under review. Serita Frey asked if conserved areas related to open space subdivisions should be included, i.e. Cottonwood Estates. It was noted that they do appear to be included on the summary table.

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Regulated Wetlands:

- **Wetland Notifications**
 - **Sybert DES Permit Approval for Driveway Crossing** – DES Wetlands File#2016-01285
93 Coffeetown Rd - Map 408 Lot 16
 - **Complete Forestry Notification – Menard Forest Family Partnership** – 36 Mountain Rd – Map 415/57 DES File# 2016-03793 “Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification”
 - **Wetlands Permit Application – 4 Loon Ledge (Pleasant Lake) Map 207 Lot 19** – Thomas G. Thorne
 - **Complete Forestry Notification** – DES File#2016-03558 “Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification” – Nancy H. Mathes Trust, 110 Raymond Rd – Map 418 Lots 22, 23 & 78
 - **Time Extension – Wetlands & Non-Site Specific** – DES Permit #2011-02869 - Map 413 Lot 7
Cathleen M. McCarron-Perron, 32 Brown Rd

It was noted that the Sybert permit was approved with conditions. Kate Hartnett requested a copy of the permit extension for Map 413 Lot 7 for review.

Announcements/Correspondence/Reminders:

Wes Golomb reported that the **Town had accepted his three photos for display** and agreed to hang the framed conservation maps. He proposed that the display be flexible so that it can be updated from time to time and suggested that an open house could be arranged to provide an educational opportunity. Mr. Golomb also offered to submit an article to the FORUM announcing **DCC’s 50th Anniversary – March 14th**

It is hoped that volunteers and friends of the DCC will be able to attend the small celebration on the night of the March 13th meeting.

Chair Frey moved and Wes Golomb seconded her **motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2017
(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