

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2017

**Members Present:** Erick Berglund, Deb Campelia, Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett

**Members Absent:** Jim Deely, Wes Golomb

**Visitors:** None

**At 7:05 pm** Chair Serita Frey called the meeting to order.

**Finance:** Mr. Berglund reported the balance in the **Conservation Fund on February 28<sup>th</sup>** was **\$316,313.60** reflecting interest of **\$60.80**.

**Northern Pass Update:** Kate Hartnett reported that the Town is party to a motion that has been filed with the NH Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) to temporarily suspend deliberations on the NPT application, based on the financial viability of the project being in question. The trial portion of the proceedings is scheduled to begin on April 13<sup>th</sup>. April 12<sup>th</sup> is the due date for submission of Ms. Hartnett's *supplemental pre-filed testimony* to the attorney. The report will be available for DCC review on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Until it is released on the docket, the report is subject to attorney-client privilege. Phase II of the proceedings begins May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion by Serita Frey to approve the **minutes from the March 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting** was seconded by Erick Berglund. The minutes were debated and approved with the following edits:

**Page 2-Paragraph 1**

Believing that not all *Management of* conservation land needs to be treated the same, *should be guided by the Deerfield Open Space Plan (DOSP)*. ~~it was hoped that the property could be managed differently; perhaps being-~~ *Given its location and character, this parcel may benefit from management as a reserved or undisturbed area.* and not encouraging a lot of activity.

As part of the discussion, Erick Berglund questioned the goal of the Edythe Boisvert Town Forest (referenced above). DCC members agreed that priorities of the Deerfield Open Space Plan are helpful to guide management.

**Page 2 – Paragraph 8 (Continued on Page 3)**

Ms. Hartnett also reported that the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) has **conditionally approved the Wetland Permit Application for the NPT project with stipulations**. *Despite the DES permit, Since there will be no opportunity to comment further, Ms. Hartnett will not be submitting the results of the field work she and volunteer Frank Mitchell have done on vernal pools and wetlands to the DES SEC in Supplemental Pre-filed Testimony* as previously intended.

**Page 3 – Paragraph 7 (Continued on Page 4)**

**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** noting that the last few lots are being developed. **Management of the** The 26 acres of open space is the result of collaboration between NH Fish & Game, the Deerfield Planning Board, the DCC and the developer. 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 **NH Fish & Game** parking area and boulder-lined **foot** access to Corey WMA. The easement area **will be reclaimed in a unique manner with practices that to will create a habitat for bank swallows, turtles/reptiles and other small creatures and non-game species in**

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keeping with the goals of the NH Wildlife Action Plan and DOSP. Deerfield's Planning Board approved the plan on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Page 4 – Paragraph 3

- **Wetland Notifications**
  - **Wetlands Utility Maintenance Notification – PSNH dba Eversource Energy**  
Conduct maintenance on the G-146 transmission line to ensure the continued safe and reliable operation of Eversource's transmission & distribution systems (*Est. Receipt by DCC approx. 1/18/17*).

### Page 5 – Paragraph 4

Serita Frey announced that April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Earth Day, will be commemorated with a nationwide, *March for Science*. Ms. Frey noted that the primary reason for the march was to raise awareness of the importance of science in society and that a recent survey found that 75% of Americans *U.S. residents* say they don't know a living scientist.

### Page 4 – Paragraph 5

We here in Deerfield, and more particularly at the DCC, are fortunate to have Soil Scientist, Serita Frey and Geographer, Kate Hartnett as exemplary role models, sharing their science-based skills and extensive knowledge to make Deerfield, and the world, a better place to live! *And Deb Campelia, whose knowledge of plants and sciences, teaching skills, artistic eye and creativity won a Blue Ribbon for the DCC Invasive Plant display at the Deerfield Fair 2016!!*

After additional discussion on the handling of revised minutes, it was suggested that the BOS be consulted for guidance.

### Membership:

Serita Frey requested that the clerk to contact Town Administrator, John Harrington to inquire if there is a process for soliciting new members for the DCC.

### Easement Monitoring:

**Great Brook Corridor:** Volunteer Will Frey has expressed an interest in learning from Al Jaeger about monitoring of the Great Brook Corridor conservation easement. Chair Frey has encouraged Mr. Frey to accompany Mr. Jaeger as he monitors the various parcels that make up the conserved area. Mr. Frey, Frank Mitchell and Al Jaeger will be replacing the boundary markers that have been lost on one of the parcels.

**Curry:** Deb Campelia may have a volunteer to accompany her and Paula Duchano as they monitor the Curry easement. It is hoped that going forward, the volunteer will be able to continue monitoring the parcel in Ms. Campelia's absence.

**McNeil Conservation Area – Blake's Hill Rd:** In response to reports of wheeled vehicle tracks, a breach in a stone wall and signs of timber trespass discovered during routine monitoring, Serita Frey spoke with the owners of the abutting property, Northwood Map 240 Lot 6, which appeared to have been cut within the last year. The current owners indicated that the timber was already down when they moved in a year ago. The circumstances surrounding the timber cut were unknown.

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**Kay Williams (Merrill):** Kate Hartnett questioned whether the Kay Williams easement was due for monitoring. Serita Frey indicated that it would probably be due in the fall.

### **Easements and Land Protection:**

**Brown's Mill:** Kate Hartnett will request a copy of the recorded easement deed from the attorney.

**Project #31:** Kate Hartnett and Serita Frey are scheduled to meet with Bear-Paw staff to discuss next steps on the LCHIP application for this project.

### **Town Forest Protection:**

**Boisvert Town Forest – Permanent Protection:** The survey of the parcel is still pending. Serita Frey reported that there are no additional changes to the draft easement deed, other than the parking area, which fails to comply with the existing location requirements in the draft deed. This point will be addressed with Bear-Paw.

**Deerfield Open Space Plan (DOSP) Update:** Kate Hartnett reported that volunteer Linda Lee has been delayed on the update of the DOSP. Ms. Lee plans to resume her work on the project as soon as her circumstances allow. Judy Marshall reported on her update to Ms. Hartnett's matrix of Deerfield conservation properties for the DOSP. Ms. Hartnett, having recently attended the *Saving Special Places* event, became aware of a template used by The Nature Conservancy to record the details of their easements. Ms. Hartnett felt that the template could be useful in updating DCC's easement records. Ms. Marshall also expressed an interest in using the template for her update of the DOSP. As a result, Ms. Hartnett will request a copy of the template from Krista Hemboldt of The Nature Conservancy.

**Trails:** Deb Campelia, Alan Perkins and Dan Kern from Bear-Paw plan to **mark a new section of trail through the Lindsay-Flanders Conservation Area off Cole Rd.** The addition of a loop to the existing system was proposed and tentatively mapped in the fall of 2016.

Kate Hartnett will e-mail Jim Deely of the Trails Committee to inform him that volunteers are needed to clear blow-downs on the Chase Lot between the start of the trail and the stream. This is deemed to be "chain saw work" which could be supervised by Mr. Deely. Serita Frey suggested a post on the Trails Facebook page.

### **Regulated Wetlands:**

- **Wetland/Shoreland Notifications:**
  - **Shoreland Impact Permit #2017-00471 – 3 & 4 Iver Johnson (Pleasant Lake) Map 207 Lots 35 & 40 Joseph/Susan Reed – 45 Cotton Rd – Deerfield**  
**Permit Description:** Impact 5,200 SF of the protected shoreland in order to construct a new garage, install new septic system, and landscape.  
*A Shoreland Impact Permit was issued. No application was received by DCC for review prior to issuance of the above permit.*

The clerk is working with Ms. Roberts, Deputy Town Clerk, to ascertain why neither the Town nor the DCC appear to have received a copy of the application prior to its submission to the DES (only received notice of the subsequent DES approval).

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Ms. Hartnett is waiting for a response to her call to NH DES regarding the above notification.

**Announcements/Correspondence/Reminders:**

Serita Frey announced the following:

- **4/22/2017**
  - Earth Day Celebration
  - Town-wide clean-up
  - Nationwide March for Science – Washington, DC, Boston, Concord, Portsmouth
- **4/23/2017**
  - Northern Pass Demonstration in Concord

Chair Frey adjourned the meeting at **7:55 pm.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2017**

*(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 are contained in the minutes of the following meeting, after approval by the Deerfield Conservation Commission*