

## DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2017

**Members Present:** Haley Andreozzi, Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett, Ben Miner  
**Members Absent:** None  
**Visitors/Guests:** Phil Bilodeau, Ellen O'Donnell, Jim Page, Sylvia von Aulock, Sherrie Trefry, Kevin McCune

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

**Education Grant Opportunity:** Guest, Ellen O'Donnell presented an opportunity for collaboration between the conservation commission and her 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Deerfield Community School (DCS). Ms. O'Donnell was recently notified of new grant funding from the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC), jointly available to schools and conservation commissions, to partner on a conservation project that would not only be a hands-on educational opportunity, but also provide a benefit to the community.

Ms. O'Donnell provided the proposed plan details which included performing wildlife and vegetation inventories and identifying habitats existing within a town forest. Trail cams will be employed to confirm the types of wildlife surmised to exist within those communities. Students will use a land cover classification system to assign standardized codes to the land cover found within the various habitats on a property. They will then be able to compare the characteristics of Deerfield's forests with those of students in Finland and Germany. Students would also identify and create a plan to correct human impacts they discover, followed by a community action/celebration day. Members chose McNeal Town Forest (Blake's Hill Rd) and Dowst-Cate Town Forest (Nottingham Rd) as the areas the students would survey.

DCC involvement would include setting up a community survey to collect publicly provided data (surveys at trail heads, iNaturalist.org, Trails Club Facebook page and Forum postings). Deadline for the application is August 31<sup>st</sup>. Serita Frey will complete the DCC portion of the grant application.

**Zoning Input:** Sylvia von Aulock, Deerfield Town Planner & Executive Director, Southern NH Planning Commission (SNHPC), has requested input from DCC to possible changes in current zoning. For consideration is the addition of a "no disturbance" setback for wetlands; a natural, vegetative buffer zone within the setback. Current zoning provides for a "structural" setback of 100 feet from wetlands, but does not stipulate what may be within those 100 feet. Also for consideration is requiring contiguous acreage be used in determining the buildable area on any given lot (current minimum lot size in Deerfield is 3 acres with ¼ acre minimum buildable acreage). Kate Hartnett cited the importance of upland buffers to control the flow of pollutants down into wetlands, i.e. from fertilizers and pasture land. Ms. von Aulock has offered to prepare a matrix for Deerfield, comparing its current zoning with other communities, and Haley Andreozzi will send information on a statewide Wetland Buffer Working Group. Ms. von Aulock will be available for further discussion at the September meeting, after members have had an opportunity to review current zoning and proposed changes.

**Eversource Utility Maintenance Work:** Sherrie Trefry (Director of Energy & Environmental Services – VHB) and Kevin McCune (Eversource), both representing Eversource, presented aerial maps of plans for proposed replacement of insulators, and of several existing structures, at the Deerfield substation and within the Eversource ROW in Deerfield as part of Eversource's annual maintenance program on its 307 and C129 lines. It was questioned whether replacement of existing poles would be subject to the restrictions of the Wetlands Conservation District. Although the representatives state that a Wetland Utility Maintenance

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*Notification* would be filed, and that Best Management Practices (BMP's) would be adhered to, **Kate Hartnett and visitor/resident Jim Page offered historical evidence of severe damage to sensitive wetlands resulting from previous work being performed in 2016 and 2017.** Mr. Page inquired about specific impacts to the project areas. A site visit prior to submitting the proposal and the work being done was suggested. Of note was the **inaccuracy of the aerial base maps (dated 2010 and 2011)** that show an area as currently forested, but that Mr. Page notes had been cut last year, resulting in destruction of vernal pools from skidders and backhoes. Ms. Hartnett felt that a **Wetland Permit should be required; the project should not simply be part of a Wetland Utility Maintenance Permit.** Visitor/resident **Phil Bilodeau questioned if the work was actually in the permitting stage,** since as an abutter, he had received notification dated August 17, 2017 that the work would begin “in the next couple of weeks...on the right of way on or near your property...” and would include the replacement of existing wood structures “...with new steel structures of similar size.” **Representatives stated they would look into the members' and residents' concerns and complaints, and that the work was not related to Northern Pass.**

**Town Planner, Sylvia von Aulock felt that the project fell within a gray area of Deerfield zoning regulations for Wetlands Conservation District (Sec. 210)** and that the existing conditions were not clear. After listening to comments from members and residents about past experiences indicating that BMP's had not previously been employed, Ms. von Aulock felt **Eversource should come to the Deerfield Planning Board to obtain a Conditional Use Permit.** Of concern are access, erosion control and past practices. **Eversource needs to spell out the BMP's to be followed; that this work needs to be done correctly.**

**Town Forest Inventory Project:** **Fred Borman, UNH Cooperative Extension, explained the goal of the project is to inventory all the town-owned conservation lands in New Hampshire.** DCC provided basic information on Deerfield's town-owned parcels which will be used to complete questionnaires for each parcel and tract. Data from the paper surveys will be input into a database which will also be shared with NH GRANIT (Geographically Referenced Analysis and Transfer System). DCC will be collecting additional data, as possible, relative to governance, stewardship, forest management, and intended uses. The data being collected will also be beneficial in updating the *Deerfield Open Space Plan*.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion by Chair Serita Frey to approve the **minutes of the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting** was followed by a second from Erick Berglund, and approved unanimously.

**Finance:** Erick Berglund reported that he has received **no updated information** on the balance in the Conservation Fund since the April report.

**Budget:** Erick Berglund asked members to review the **proposed budget for 2018.** Ben Minerd was asked if he knew of any un-reported expenses incurred for FY 2017 or anticipated for FY 2018 for the Trails Committee. Mr. Minerd will speak with Jim Deely to determine if \$200 will be sufficient for FY 2018. Haley Andreozzi suggested tapping resources available through *Stewardship Network: New England* and the *NH Trail Finder Project*. Ms. Andreozzi will forward links to the two programs.

**Membership:** Both **Haley Andreozzi and Ben Minerd** have been sworn in as DCC's two newest members, replacing Deb Campelia and Jim Deely respectively. Welcome Aboard!!

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**Easement Monitoring/Stewardship:**

**Curry Easement:** Ben Minerd will speak with Frank Mitchell about **monitoring the Curry LCIP easement for 2017**. It was suggested he reach out to Paula Duchano to arrange a time to meet.

**Lindsay-Flanders:** Serita Frey will once again reach out to Dan Kern to determine the status of the Bear-Paw Board's approval of the trail extension.

**Easements & Land Protection:**

**Project #31:** Serita Frey reported that, relative to the application for project funding, LCHIP representatives would be making a site visit to the property in September.

Kate Hartnett reported that she was aware of a **possible new conservation initiative** in the very early stages of development. The objective would be to create a multi-party trail, conceptually similar to the Great Brook Corridor.

**Town Forest Protection – Boisvert Town Forest:** Chair Frey has not had a reply from Dan Kern as to the **status of the survey**. Ms. Frey will attempt to obtain information prior to the next meeting.

**Regulated Wetlands:**

**NEW Wetland Notifications:**

- **Northern Pass Substation Test Pits - DES Wetlands Permit #2017-01534 Issued 8/9/2017**
- **Normandeau Associates:** Response to DCC comments dated June 14, 2017 - **NHDES File 2017-01534** – Wetlands Permit Deerfield Substation
- **Land Resources Management File #2017-02453** – 15 Cole Road, Tax Map 419 Lot 101  
Possible Violation - Subsurface System Permit Required
- **NHDES Notices of compliance inspections for the following properties:**
  - **BMI Realty Trust, Deborah Gadd – #2016-00160** (Corey Rd, Map 411 Lot 45-8)
  - **SYBERT – #2016-01285** (93 Coffeetown Rd, Map 408 Lot 16)
  - **GRAYKIN – #2015-02105** (Old Coffeetown Rd Map 406 Lot 13 \* Trout Unlimited\*)
  - **CANNON – #2016-01403** (152 South Rd, Map 420 Lot 13 \* Trout Unlimited\*)
  - **WEBB – #2014-02240** (Mt. Delight Rd, Map 411 Lot 4)
  - **GIOVINELLI – #2006-00272** (Middle Rd, Map 419 Lot 76.2)

**Announcements/Correspondence/Reminders:**

- **UNH Cooperative Extension Informational Packet: Emerald Ash Borer**  
Notification that **Emerald Ash Borer has now been found in Deerfield**  
See [nhbugs.org](http://nhbugs.org) for more information. Haley Andreozzi will try to pinpoint the location in Deerfield

Chair Serita Frey **Adjourned the meeting at 9:25 pm.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11, 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*