

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2017

Members Present: Haley Andreozzi, Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Ben Minerd
Members Absent: Kate Hartnett
Visitors/Guests: Dan Kern

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion by Chair Serita Frey to approve the **minutes of the August 21st meeting** was followed by a second from Erick Berglund, and approved unanimously.

Finance: Erick Berglund reported the following balances in the Conservation Fund: **May 31st**, \$323,042.61, **June 30th**, \$323,109.15 with interest of \$68.75 and \$66.54 respectively. Quarterly Land Use Change Tax in the amount of \$7075.00 is expected to be reflected in the July 31st balance.

Serita Frey explained for the benefit of new members that the **Land Use Change tax is levied on parcels removed from Current Use assessment due to a change in use**, and is the only source of funding for the Conservation Fund. An uptick in the development of previously open space land has resulted in an increase in change tax revenue, 50% of which goes to the town and 50% to the Conservation Fund. Although the DCC does attempt to stretch these funds, they should not be allowed to accumulate indefinitely since there is a cap of \$500,000 on the Conservation Fund balance. Current projects are anticipated to put a significant portion of these funds to good use in the near future.

Budget: Ben Minerd confirmed that \$200 would be adequate for the *Trails Committee*, a portion of which could be used to purchase tools dedicated to trail maintenance. The Clerk confirmed that \$200 for *Supplies* and \$1400 for the *Part Time Secretary* would be adequate for 2018. Members agreed that the line for *Meetings, Seminars and Training* would be increased to \$130 to cover the cost of attending two meetings per year. \$50 from the 2017 budgeted *Meetings/Seminars/Training* line will be used to partially offset the cost of Ben Minerd's attendance at the NHACC annual meeting in November. **Erick Berglund moved to accept the 2018 budget as proposed. A second by Serita Frey was followed by unanimous approval.**

Easements & Land Protection:

Project #35: Dan Kern of Bear-Paw gave members an overview of a proposed collaborative project to **acquire contiguous parcels of land in the towns of Epsom and Deerfield.** The first of the two Deerfield parcels, **Map 205 Lot 2** off Griffin Rd, is currently conserved with a USDA *Natural Resources Conservation Service* (NRCS) *Wetland Reserve Program* (WRP) easement and abuts the Hart Town Forest. **Deerfield Map 403-001** abuts the above Map 205-2 and is currently unprotected

The two parcels total approximately **279 acres and are in close proximity to the Wells Town Forest, the Corey Wildlife Management Area (NH Fish and Game) and are within a short distance of the Boisvert Town Forest.** The two Epsom parcels abut the Deerfield parcels at the Deerfield/Epsom town line and are contiguous to the Epsom Town Forest and other currently conserved Epsom properties. **The acquisition of these four parcels would create a large, unfragmented chunk of conserved land spanning the two towns, that could be connected with a network of trails.**

The current proposal is for Deerfield to share the cost of a \$1900 appraisal with Epsom. Members discussed the pros and cons of the potential acquisition and expressed the need for the appraisal to evaluate the two Deerfield parcels separately. Additionally the appraisal should reflect the existing NRCS WRP easement, the parcels' limited commercial values, and the damage from the 2008 tornado and subsequent harvest.

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A motion by Serita Frey to expend \$950 from the Conservation Fund to share 50% of the cost of an appraisal with the Town of Epsom was seconded by Haley Andreozzi and approved unanimously. Mr. Kern will request that the appraiser re-submit a proposal and separate billing to the Town of Deerfield.

Project #31: Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett and Dan Kern accompanied representatives from LCHIP who made a site visit to the property on Thursday, September 7th relative to the application for project funding. LCHIP is currently reviewing 45 projects with combined funding requests totaling \$4.5 million, competing for \$3 million in available funds. The LCHIP committee will make their determination when they meet in early to mid-November. Dan Kern noted that although the requests exceed the available funds, LCHIP could offer partial funding for one or more projects. Mr. Kern felt the representatives were very objective, but did seem to appreciate the anonymous grant and private funds being devoted to the project. Conversations with the owner of the 15 acre non-conservation parcel are ongoing.

Town Forest Protection – Boisvert Town Forest: Dan Kern reported that he expects the survey to be completed prior to the end of the year.

Easement Monitoring/Stewardship:

Curry Easement: Ben Minerd has spoken with Frank Mitchell about **monitoring the Curry LCIP easement for 2017.** Mr. Mitchell would like the landowner to be present for the monitoring; however Mr. Minerd has been unsuccessful in his attempt to reach the owner to arrange a time to meet.

Great Brook Corridor: Serita Frey will speak with the Al Jaeger, the volunteer who historically has monitored these LCIP parcels, regarding the reporting for 2017.

Lindsay-Flanders: October 30th is the tentative date for Ben Minerd, Frank Mitchell and Alan Perkins to perform the **GPS mapping of the new ½ mile loop trail.** Results of the mapping will be presented to the Bear-Paw board members for final approval.

Ben Minerd reported that he and his family encountered **gunfire that was uncomfortably close to the Lindsay-Flanders trail on which they were recently hiking.** Members acknowledged that landowners are entitled to discharge firearms on their own property with certain restrictions, but **should be mindful of the presence of hikers who could be in close proximity.** It was suggested that once a map of the new loop trail is available it could be mailed to abutters to inform them of the new trail and increase awareness that caution should be exercised when discharging firearms in the area. Mr. Minerd will inform Deerfield Police of the incident.

Serita Frey was contacted by a **Manchester resident who requested permission to hunt on the Fowler Conservation Land.** A joint letter from DCC and BOS was drafted and presented to the BOS for approval. At its 9/11 meeting, the select board chose not to set a precedent of requiring permission to hunt on town lands given that it is currently legal to hunt if the land is not posted. The Town Administrator will respond with a letter and Chair Frey will follow up with a call to the hunter.

Zoning Input: Members were reminded to review the zoning information and comparisons of local wetland regulations sent to the DCC by Deerfield Town Planner, Sylvia von Aulock in preparation for discussion and recommendations at the October 16th DCC meeting. For consideration is the addition of a “no disturbance” setback for wetlands; a natural, vegetative buffer zone within the existing setback.

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Education Grant Opportunity: Serita Frey reported that she and Ellen O'Donnell worked together to submit the application for the **grant funding from the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC)** for a collaborative project between DCC and Ms. O'Donnell's 7th and 8th grade students at Deerfield Community School.

Announcements/Correspondence/Reminders:

In response to a recent article in the FORUM, **Chair Frey will be submitting comments to the *Land Trust Alliance (LTA)* on behalf of Bear-Paw Regional Greenways.** The organization is in the process of applying for accreditation with the LTA.

Members were reminded to “**Save the Date**” for the *N.H. Association of Conservation Commission's 47th annual meeting on Saturday, November 4th.*

The Lamprey River Watershed Association is asking for volunteers for its *River Clean Up Day*. Wes Golomb stated that he would be willing to volunteer depending on the date for the event.

NH Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee field day – 9/22/2017 – Lancaster, NH

NEW Wetland Notifications:

Land Resources Management File #2017-02453 – 15 Cole Road, Tax Map 419 Lot 101 Possible Violation - Subsurface System Permit Required.

DCC was copied on a response from the landowner to the DES indicating that they had made a repair to a pipe but that no replacement to either the septic system or leach field had taken place.

A motion by Chair Serita Frey to **Adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm** was seconded and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16, 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 are contained in the minutes of the following meeting, after approval by the Deerfield Conservation Commission