

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – **November 6, 2017**

Members Present: Haley Andreozzi, Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett, Ben Minerd
Members Absent: None
Visitors/Guests: Fred Matuszewski, Sylvia von Aulock

At 7:08 pm Chair Serita Frey called the meeting to order and made introductions.

Deerfield Community School (DCS) Engineering & Demographic Studies: Members received a presentation by Fred Matuszewski, from CMK Architects P.A. who was retained by the Deerfield Community School (DCS) to perform both an engineering study and a demographic study for DCS. The purpose of the studies is to evaluate the school's present systems with the goal of putting a deferred maintenance program into place to update those systems. The studies also take into account additional requirements to accommodate future growth-related building expansion (the school is currently at capacity with 551 students).

Areas being reviewed are the wells and potable water supply, fire protection system, septic system, storm water management, access and parking, and play fields. Building expansion would include the removal of the four modular classrooms. **Site challenges related to expanding the current structure** are the school's proximity to wetlands and Freese Pond, the location of existing infrastructure (wellheads, pump houses, septic fields, utilities, drainage, access roads) and ledge.

Mr. Matuszewski and Paul Hayner of Hayner/Swanson, Inc. (Civil Engineers/Land Surveyors) met with David Price from DES Land Resources Management on Wednesday, November 1st to tour the site and discuss its limitations. Mr. Price recommended a review by a wetland professional and a future meeting to include Darlene Forst from the *DES Shoreland Program*. Mr. Matuszewski confirmed that **there will be a function and value study of the wetlands. Members' concerns included preventing runoff from parking areas from entering the wetlands, and septic options.** The meeting with DCC was intended to be an introduction; future meetings will be held with the Deerfield Planning Board. The demographic study is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year.

Zoning Amendment/Wetland Buffers: Members reviewed the **vegetated buffer regulations of the neighboring towns of Northwood, Nottingham, Epsom, Raymond, Candia, Allenstown and Auburn.** Sylvia von Aulock noted that **the zoning varied in complexity.** Allenstown's regulations were straight-forward with a *50' no disturbance vegetated buffer from wetlands and surface waters*, and dealt primarily with water quality as opposed to structural and septic setbacks. Kingston evaluated its wetlands on a case-by-case basis using a point system, with determination of the buffer size requiring the services of a wetland scientist to perform a function and value analysis. Other towns distinguished between *poorly and very poorly drained soils*; however it was unclear how the towns came to their regulations; by looking at the science or simply what residents would accept.

Wes Golomb and Haley Andreozzi commented on the NH State Legislature's current and previous unsuccessful attempts to regulate wetland buffers. A June 13, 2017 *Scientific Wetland Buffer Report* by the *NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists* (NHANRA) does not specify a buffer distance. Most towns range between 50 and 150 feet.

Ms. von Aulock reported that **Steve Miller of the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is working with other groups on a buffer study.** Completion of the resulting document is anticipated by early 2018.

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Members discussed the information gathered and decided to continue to research the subject, wait for the Steve Miller report, and revisit the issue early next year **with a goal of getting the zoning on the 2019 ballot**. Members should **review the 2017 NHANRS report**. <http://nhanrs.org/nhanrs-wetland-buffer-scientific-workgroup/>

Ms. Hartnett and Aulock will discuss the process with the Planning Board on Wednesday. A resident survey was recommended as well. Ms. von Aulock will make initial contact with John Duffy of the *Pleasant Lake Watershed Association* regarding watershed protection through zoning.

Approval of Minutes: A motion by Chair Serita Frey to approve the **minutes of the October 16th meeting** was followed by a second from Erick Berglund and approved, with Haley Andreozzi abstaining.

Finance: Erick Berglund reported that Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) of \$7,125 and interest of \$69.41 in July, \$70.30 in August, and \$68.05 in September resulted in a **Conservation Fund balance as of September 30th of \$321,241.91**. The Conservation Fund received a **Land Use Change Tax deposit in the amount of \$22,773.50** which represents 50% of the total 3rd Quarter 2017 LUCT collected, and will be included in the October balance.

Kate Hartnett moved to **approve payments of \$100 to Bear-Paw Regional Greenways and \$100 to the Lamprey River Watershed Association for 2018 membership dues**. The motion was seconded by Wes Golomb and carried unanimously.

Easements & Land Protection: There were no updates for either **Project #31 or Project #35**.

Town Forest Protection – Boisvert Town Forest: Erick Berglund spoke with Dan Kern of Bear-Paw and Christopher Berry, President of *Berry Surveying and Engineering*, regarding **the pending survey of the Boisvert Town Forest**. Mr. Berglund was informed by Mr. Berry that the surveyor was having a problem with the road status research. DCC volunteer Frank Mitchell provided his available research in May 2017.

Kate Hartnett is in the process of editing the Boisvert easement deed. As part of the process, Ms. Hartnett plans to **suggest language be added that would require locating trails in a manner that would minimize impacts to wildlife**. The methodology, developed jointly by New Hampshire conservation organizations, is **science, data and GIS based**. *NH Fish & Game* included use of the methodology as a provision in a *Southeast Land Trust* easement in Barrington. Ms. Hartnett and Ms. Andreozzi learned of this approach during a presentation by *NH Fish & Game* given at the *NH Association of Conservation Commissions'* annual meeting on November 4th.

Easement Monitoring/Stewardship: **2017 reports have been received for Great Brook, McNeil and Wells**. Arrangements for monitoring the Curry easements are on hold, pending a reply from the owner.

Education Grant Opportunity: To date there has been no communication between Alan Perkins, Frank Mitchell and Ellen O'Donnell regarding the proposed **student work day on the Lindsay-Flanders trails**. Mr. Golomb mentioned that he recently **spoke with students in Ms. O'Donnell's class** at Deerfield Community School (DCS).

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Trails: Ben Minerd reported that he **informed Deerfield Police of the recent gunfire near a hiking trail in Lindsay-Flanders Town Forest**. Mr. Minerd also spoke with Jim Deely and confirmed that **Peg King Park has not been mapped**.

Regulated Wetlands: No further information has been received regarding a possible wetland violation on a property on Cole Rd.

Wes Golomb requested input on a petitioned warrant article that would signal Deerfield's support, at the local level, for the Paris Climate Accord. Mr. Golomb's concern is **how to adapt Deerfield for the future and minimize its carbon footprint in the face of a changing climate**. It was suggested that Mr. Golomb modify the language so that it is more local, review wording that has been used by other towns, and to speak with members of the BOS regarding his proposal. Mention was made of the over a million households that faced prolonged power outages and closed roads due to the recent regional severe storms.

Wes Golomb reported that **volunteers from Deerfield, including Ellen O'Donnell and one of her students, participated in the Lamprey River cleanup day**.

Chair Frey moved to **adjourn at 9:04 pm**.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 11, 2017

(Please check the website for scheduling changes)

townofdeerfieldnh.com

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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