

# DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2018

**Members Present:** Haley Andreozzi, Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett  
**Members Absent:** Ben Minerd  
**Visitors:** Ed Cross, Dana Cook, Alden Beauchemin, Dan Kern

Serita Frey called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Resident Ed Cross submitted a *Wetlands Permit Application* for review and expedited approval.** The application is for the filling of 152 square feet of wetland to install a driveway culvert to facilitate access to the back of Lot 105 on Map 414 located off Church St. After discussion of the plan as a whole, Mr. Cross was encouraged to explore alternatives to the proposed placement with an eye toward potential future plans; however, given the restrictive nature of the public service ROW that runs the extent of the lot, Mr. Cross felt the current plan best represented his future objectives for the parcel. Mr. Cross provided a copy of the public service easement deed for reference. Serita Frey moved to sign the application. Erick Berglund seconded the motion which was approved with Kate Hartnett abstaining.

**Alden Beauchemin submitted a *Wetlands Permit Application* for review and expedited approval on behalf of his clients, Dana and Beth Cook.** The application is for the replacement of an 8” driveway culvert for an existing private driveway (Sleeper Court) that services the Cook’s three lots off Ridge Rd and provides access to their single family house on Map 414 Lot 42. Temporary planking currently being used to cross the wetland is to be replaced by a proposed 42” corrugated culvert at Lot 41 of Map 414. Mr. Cook and Mr. Beauchemin agreed to research the possibility of installing a box culvert that was suggested as an alternative to the proposed corrugated culvert. Wes Golomb moved to approve the application. Serita Frey seconded the motion which passed unanimously

## **Eversource Utility Work – Conditional Use Permit Application:**

**Eversource has received its second Conditional Use Permit (CUP) from the Planning Board for its proposed structure replacement project.** Performance under the first CUP was mixed, with significant issues with a structure replacement in wetlands. Neither the *National Heritage Bureau* nor *NH Fish and Game* offered any constraints for this permit, despite their data indicating the potential presence of Rare, Threatened, or Endangered (RTE) species. DCC’s intervention did, however, result in Eversource agreeing to provide active wildlife/reptile/amphibian monitoring and to follow the proposed Massachusetts protocols to minimize the project’s impacts to the wetlands and wildlife. DCC will work with and encourage DES to exert more oversight on future permits.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion by Serita Frey to approve the **minutes of the June 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting** was followed with a second by Haley Andreozzi. The motion passed with Erick Berglund abstaining.

**Finance:** Mr. Berglund reported that he has been unable to obtain timely balance information for the conservation fund. He has communicated with the Town Administrator and met with him several times to resolve this problem. He was told this is a difficult matter because the party responsible for this reporting holds an elected position. There was some discussion about how best to correct this situation and be assured of receiving timely and accurate reporting of Conservation Fund activity and balances. The **balance in the conservation fund at the end of March was \$404,967.42.**

Mr. Berglund presented a preliminary version of DCC’s 2019 budget. DCC is currently operating on the 2018 default budget. Mr Berglund proposed a preliminary budget request of \$3,051 for FY 2019. This was the original budget requested for 2018. Serita Frey moved and Wes Golomb seconded a motion to approve the proposed budget. The motion passed unanimously

## **Easements and Land Protection**

**Project #35 – Epsom/Deerfield Joint Town Project:** Dan Kern submitted a revised budget reflecting the purchase of only the backland portion. A site visit is anticipated for September in conjunction with the grant funding application.

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**Boisvert Town Forest – Easement Deed:** Dan Kern has added the suggested draft DCC edits based on NH Fish & Game process for locating trails to minimize impacts to wildlife, and is finishing the property description. Kate Hartnett will submit additional edits from NH Fish & Game before the August meeting. Members discussed proposed language to reserve the right for future parking, given the landlocked, remote, and unfragmented character of the area. Since a limit to the size of a parking area would be needed if an opportunity presented itself in the future, members agreed to allow for an

area not to exceed 1500 square feet. Serita Frey recommended moving forward with the easement and tabled a discussion detailing public access for a future time.

**Marston Farm:** Dan Kern has incorporated the DCC members' comments into the **draft easement deed for the 38 acre parcel**. Deerfield will be the primary executory interest holder and LCHIP will hold the secondary interest. Members reviewed the matrix of proposed structures and uses and discussed public access related to the 38 acre parcel.

Paula Bellemore, Natural Resource Specialist from LCHIP will work with the NH State Attorney General's Office on the **transfer of the existing conservation easement on the 128 acre parcel**. Mr. Kern is striving for a closing of the conservation easement on the 38 acre parcel prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>. A date for the conveyance of the warranty deed to the 128 acre parcel has not been set.

### Announcements:

Kate Hartnett reported that DCC has finally received the recorded **deed to the Brown's Mill subdivision's conserved area**.

Ms. Hartnett also reported that the *Society for the Protection of NH Forests* may publish the **before (1991) and after (2018) photos commemorating three decades of land conservation work in Deerfield**. The photo is of the installation of the LCIP sign at the entrance to the *Great Brook Trail* following the completion of the 750 acre conservation project, funded in part by the NH Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) in 1991.

**Ms. Hartnett received correspondence from resident Bob LaFrambois thanking her for responding to his letter of June 6<sup>th</sup>** in which he expressed concerns over the expansion of the VanBerkum nursery on Griffin Rd. and potential use of water from Dow Pond. Ms. Hartnett forwarded clips from DCC's minutes of its October and December 2017 meetings outlining Mr. VanBerkum's plans which did not include any disturbance to either the wetland on his property or nearby Dow Pond.

**DCS science teacher Ellen O'Donnell provided DCC with a summary of her seventh and eighth grade students' year-long conservation project** funded by a grant from the *HN Association of Conservation Commissions* in collaboration with the DCC. The ~120 students were exposed to the Town Forests, cleaned trails at Dowst-Cate and provided signage at Lindsay-Flanders. A summary of the project can be found in the Town Forest section of the Conservation Commission page of the Town website.

Chair Frey adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.

**The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 13, 2018**

*(Please check the website for scheduling changes)*

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*These minutes were prepared and submitted by Judy Marshall. Revisions, if any, will be contained in the minutes of the next meeting. If amended, a revised version will be posted to the website, after approval by the Deerfield Conservation Commission*