

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2012

Members Present: Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden, Herb McKinney

Approval of Minutes:

Serita Frey opened the meeting with a motion to approve the minutes from the March (which lacked a quorum) and May meetings. The March minutes were approved with Erick Berglund abstaining since he was absent from that meeting, while the May minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Officer's Report:

Erick Berglund noted that the balance of the Conservation Fund at the end of April was \$233,800.30. Figures for May were unavailable; however, he reported that to date DCC has expended approximately 29% of its 2012 General Fund budget.

Town Forest Protection Project:

After researching local sources for the purchase of medallions that would serve as boundary markers for the town properties, Herb McKinney presented examples obtained from Voss Signs. Instead of the two sets of markers suggested by Dan Kern, one identifying the parcels as town property and the second as conservation easement, Mr. McKinney proposed a four inch, two-color (yellow and green) medallion on which the words *Deerfield* and *Conservation Easement* would encircle a representation of the town seal. Herb has spoken with, and is waiting for a response from, town administrator Leslie Boswak, who will approach the BOS regarding permission to use the town's seal. The proposed markers are expected to have a 10 year life and can be purchased for \$250.00 per 1000. Serita Frey moved *to purchase 1000 medallions of the design suggested and researched by Herb McKinney, with a cost not to exceed \$350.00, which is to be paid from the Conservation Fund.* The motion was approved unanimously. Erick Berglund suggested that the DCC coordinate the placement of the tags with Bear-Paw, and Kate Hartnett proposed that the tagging could be done in conjunction with the annual monitoring.

Additional discussion on the Town Forest Protection Project was tabled, given the absence of Dan Kern of Bear-Paw Regional Greenways.

Land Conservation:

Erick Berglund reported that he had addressed a May resident inquiry regarding activity and ribbon placement on trees on the Lindsay property, confirming that the flags were boundary markers.

Kate Hartnett made note of and complimented the McGarry's for the work they had done on their parcel.

Serita Frey commented on correspondence received from Steve Walker, Stewardship Specialist from the Conservation Land Stewardship Program, thanking DCC for meeting with him in May. Mr. Walker has submitted his *Field Visit Report* for the periodic monitoring of Deerfield's *Land Conservation Stewardship Program* (LCIP) properties which notes the absence of any violations. Mr. Walker did comment that consideration should be given to developing a succession plan for the annual monitoring of the *Great Brook Corridor* properties, which, to date, has been completed by Al Jaeger. DCC will be seeking a recruit to "tag along" with Mr. Jaeger, one to whom he could pass along his knowledge of the properties; ideally someone who would be committed to the task for the long term. This will be placed on the Agenda for July.

Regulated Wetlands:

DCC was notified by the N.H. Department of Transportation of "*Routine Roadway and Railway Maintenance Activity*" taking place on an existing masonry drainage headwall, 140' south of Iver Johnson Lane. The correspondence was accompanied by a corresponding notification from the Department of Environmental Services-Wetlands Bureau referencing the same.

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Old Business:

With respect to the Pleasant Lake Watershed Overlay Ordinance, Kate Hartnett reported that the Planning Board would be revisiting the language of that ordinance. She further suggested that Serita Frey represent the DCC as the member having the most direct experience with the challenges that need to be addressed.

Serita Frey reported on her attendance at the June 5th meeting of the Board of Selectmen at which Chairperson Frey updated the Board on the Boisvert acquisition, the ongoing UNH research project on Saddleback Mountain and the Lindsay conservation easement violation. Relative to the Lindsay easement violation, Selectman Robertson will call Jon Therrien regarding the removal of personal property blocking the entrance to the trail.

Northern Pass:

Erick Berglund informed the group of a meeting to take place on June 26th at 7:00 PM at Deerfield Community Church. Areas to be addressed will be the protection of property values and the feasibility of placing a Warrant Article on the ballot for Deerfield residents to weigh in on the decision-making. Mr. Berglund commented that approvals are required for the project and that there will be a state-appointed public representative for the process. It was noted that the Board of Selectmen is the *legislatively designated voice of the town* during the site evaluation committee process. Mr. Berglund stressed the importance of attending and of encouraging others to do so as well. Information will be available in the next print edition of the *Forum* and a question and answer series is planned for the on-line edition. It was noted that the outcome of the Northern Pass project in New Hampshire may determine the direction other projects will take in the future. Kate Hartnett pointed out that there are a number of future projects for which New Hampshire would be considered a convenient route. Ms. Hartnett also noted that Fred McGarry had been approached by a citizen from another town, requesting to address the Planning Board regarding Northern Pass issues at a not yet designated date.

Announcements:

Judy Marshall informed the members of a public hearing to take place at 5:30 PM on Monday, June 18th, preceding the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen, to obtain public input regarding a proposal to have a Discretionary Preservation Easement applied to the Robert N. and Deborah C. Harvey property located at 145 North Road, Map 405 Lot 97. The proposed easement, consistent with the purposes of RSA 79-D, would be applied to the Harvey's historic barn structures which date back to the mid 1700's and 1800's. Public benefit to be obtained versus the loss in tax revenue will be weighed in the BOS coming to a decision. The easement is renewable in 10 year increments. There was discussion among the members about similarly preserved barns in the town.

Wes Golomb will be speaking with a representative from the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission with respect to funding to create an *energy chapter* to be included in the Deerfield Master Plan. The focus would be on ways in which Deerfield could become more energy independent.

Adjournment: 8:15 PM

The Next Meeting is presently scheduled for July 9th.

The draft minutes were prepared and submitted by Judy Marshall. Final revisions to these minutes will be contained in the minutes of the following meeting, after approval by the Deerfield Conservation Commission