

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2014

Members Present: Erick Berglund, Deb Campelia, Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett

Members Absent: Dave Linden, Wes Golomb

Visitors/Volunteers: Alan Perkins, Den Kern

Serita Frey called the meeting to order at **7:06 PM** followed by introductions of the members and visitors.

Volunteer Alan Perkins was present to update the members on the state of the Town's trails which he has been independently monitoring and maintaining.

Great Brook:

- Generally in good condition
- Some blow-down and some additional trees have been cut
- “Foot Traffic Only” signs appear to have been effective
 - No mountain bikers since last year
 - One violation noted (use by a family with bicycles)
- Jim and Holly Tomilson have volunteered to assist Alan in re-marking
- Per conversation with Al Jaeger, no good place for a bridge
- Noted this is a unique parcel; comprised of multiple private parcels
- Safety concerns for homes/woodlands
 - Smoking and evidence of campfires noted
 - Suggested placement of signage
- Graffiti-defaced boulders (previously disguised with tree limbs) have once again grown over with moss
- Great Brook is currently publicized in trail guides and more hikers have been observed as a result

Lindsay-Flanders:

- Some blow-down hung up in a cable from an old zip line
- Mr. Perkins has cleaned up some of the debris as possible
- May attempt to remove old discarded tires
 - Deb Campelia suggested the tire removal as a volunteer project for some of her DCS students
- Trail appears to have been continued to Cole Rd. and noted was the existence of ribbon markers
 - Ms. Hartnett suggested alterations may have been the work of snowmobilers reported on both Freese and Lindsay-Flanders last year, indicating the need for future monitoring
 - Mr. Perkins would like to further extend and enlarge the existing loop from the ball field

Dowst-Cate:

- In good condition
- Has been recently re-painted
- Mr. Perkins has cut through some downed pines which he used as material to ford a wet area
- The bridge which was started by Americorps volunteers needs to be completed
- Materials for construction will need to be carried in
- Joe and Nancy Dambois can also provide assistance

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Arthur Chase:

- Difficulty in locating trail
- Marked trail head with a sign
- Re-painted in blue blazing (Americorps orange fading)
- Placed arrows to indicate loop trail (turns were not apparent)
- May have a location for a bridge above the high water mark
- Kate Hartnett and possibly Denny Greig can assist with bridge construction

Freese Pond:

- School volunteers maintain these trails

Peg King:

- Maintenance performed October 2012 by Americorps volunteers under the direction of Kate Hartnett
- Blazed in white
- Noted that Ann Deely routinely visits this parcel

As noted in the June minutes, Herb McKinney is in the process of **blazing the Town Forests and Conservation Areas** using the DCC's identifying yellow, circular markers and reports that **Dowst-Cate is approximately 50% complete and Hart is at 75%**. Serita Frey indicated that the Trails Club could possibly volunteer their services to assist with maintenance activities and that Deb Campelia (proposed Trails Committee member) could use Mr. Perkins' report as the basis for their future activities.

Approval of Minutes: The **minutes of the June 9th meeting were approved** unanimously as written. Erick Berglund noted the need to change the date in the heading. The correction was made prior to posting on the website.

Financial Officer's Report: Erick Berglund reported a beginning balance at the end of April of \$250,981.40 followed by two months of fund activity which included the previously approved \$800 payment to Heath Appraisal in May and a payment to Upton and Hatfield in the amount of \$97.50 in June. The addition of May and June interest of \$31.94 and \$30.85 respectively resulted in a balance at the end of **May of \$250,213.34 and June of \$250,244.19.**

DCC Budget – FY 2015: Erick Berglund presented a **draft budget for fiscal year 2015.** Of note was the inclusion of a **new line for the Trails Club with a proposed amount of \$500.** Jim Deely, however, feels that funding could be accomplished through donations. As previously noted at the June meeting, donations made in Fiscal Year 2014 must be retained by the Town as "*unanticipated revenue*" and not by the Trails Club. Given the **need for signage and materials for trail maintenance,** it was decided to include the \$500 line with the hope that any funds donated in 2014 could be earmarked for that purpose as well. Michael Wright, Town Administrator, confirmed that the proposed budget could be tentatively approved by the members and submitted to the MBC, notwithstanding small changes prior to final approval. **A motion by Erick Berglund to approve the budget as submitted with a second by Serita Frey was unanimously approved by the members.**

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Membership Vacancy: Serita Frey called for a motion to approve the **appointment of Jim Deely to replace Herb McKinney as the seventh member on the Conservation Commission. Mr. McKinney chose not to renew his membership, but is still actively involved as a volunteer. Mr. Deely’s term will expire in April 2017.** The **motion to appoint was made by Kate Hartnett with a second by Erick Berglund** and the recommendation to appoint will be formally submitted to the BOS at its next meeting.

Town Forest Protection Project: Serita Frey formally **thanked Michael Wright for his assistance, along with Kate Hartnett and Dan Kern for their attendance at the June 30th signing of the Easement Deed by the BOS.** The document, three years in the making, will serve to permanently protect Deerfield’s remaining Town Forests and Conservation Areas (Freese Town Forest had previously been protected) for the benefit and enjoyment of the residents of the Town of Deerfield and future generations. The following is a list of the parcels afforded protection under the terms of the Easement Deed:

Arthur Chase Town Forest	Tax Map 414	Lot 73	40 acres
Dowst-Cate Town Forest	Tax Map 416	Lot 16	100 acres
Hart Town Forest	Tax Map 403	Lot 2	71 acres
Lindsay Conservation Area	Tax Map 415	Lot 30	58 acres
McNeil Conservation Area	Tax Map 406	Lot 12	63 acres
Weiss Town Forest	Tax Map 416	Lot 18	93 acres
Wells Town Forest	Tax Map 411	Lot 39	80 acres

Dan Kern submitted the baseline documentation for the above easements to Chair Frey. Additionally, Mr. Kern has been in the process of **reviewing the Forest Management Plans for Dowst-Cate/Weiss, Freese and McNeil** as part of Bear-Paw’s stewardship responsibilities under the easement. The Clerk will arrange for Mr. Kern to obtain the electronic versions of the plans.

Merrill Intent to Cut: DCC has been copied on a *Notice of Intent To Cut Wood or Timber* for Map 405 Lot 84 located on North Rd. owned by Dana and Paula Merrill. The cut is **to be performed by Fort Mountain in preparing the land for conversion to a Christmas Tree Farm and the promotion of Sugar Maple culture.** The property is covered by a conservation easement (Book 3400 Page 039) granted by former owner Katherine Williams, prompting a review of the management plan by the Commission. Town Administrator, Michael Wright informed the DCC that the BOS is limited in its right of refusal to sign the *Intent to Cut*; however they have requested feedback from the DCC due to the burden of the easement. The BOS will meet again on July 28th.

Chair Frey briefly **summarized the management plan developed by Fort Mountain** and submitted by the Merrill’s, which indicates three harvests to clear and stump the parcel in 16 acre increments. The plan appears to be somewhat vague and additional review by both Phil Auger and Frank Mitchell raised **concerns over soil viability and the size of the proposed acreage to be planted to Christmas trees.** The Merrill’s appear to be serious about working within the terms of the easement, but given Mr. Merrill’s inability to meet with the DCC in July, waiting until the next DCC meeting in September would unduly delay the start of the project. In order to minimize the limitations of short notice and maximize its opportunity to give input, it was suggested that DCC members walk the property with the owners and suggest the use of best management practices where feasible. Mr. Wright also suggested that DCC could **encourage the owners to re-write/amend the easement by mutual agreement** at which time DCC **could add the requirement of using best management practices** going forward. Kate Hartnett emphasized that the DCC’s stewardship responsibilities should be met.

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Serita Frey will coordinate a time to meet with the Merrill's within the next two weeks and encouraged the **members to read the plan and prepare to provide their input**. Dan Kern additionally suggested **review by another forester and/or Town Attorney Jim Raymond**. Serita Frey will forward a copy to Attorney Raymond and **Frank Mitchell will be invited to join the members on the walk**. Dan Kern recommended that **a monitoring of property boundaries be performed** at the same time. The importance of maintaining a working relationship with the new owners was stressed.

New Business:

Northwood Lake: Michael Wright informed the members that a resident had approached the BOS to make them aware of a **Milfoil infestation on Northwood Lake**. (The northern portions of Deerfield Maps 201 and 202 border the southwestern shore of the lake). **A three-town joint committee comprised of Northwood, Epsom and Deerfield has been proposed** to look at potential solutions to the problem. Mr. Wright noted that any funds contributed to mitigation efforts would require a warrant article to allow the expenditure. He further suggested that the DCC may wish to **speak with members of the Pleasant Lake Association with respect to setting up a capital reserve fund** for this purpose which would cover Deerfield's water bodies, including Pleasant Lake as well as Northwood Lake. Northwood has made a contribution of \$5000 toward cleanup which would require the services of a **DES certified professional to manually or chemically remove the Milfoil**, employing measures to prevent the spread of the infestation in the process. It was recognized that there could potentially be other infested areas.

Correspondence: DCC is in receipt of the following:

A Division of Forests and Lands notification of a variance granted to Tom and Paula Dunigan, 169 Mt. Delight Rd., Map 411 Lot 38 for the removal of more than 50 percent of the basal area along 225 feet of Mt. Delight Road based on the owners' request to remove all of the red pine trees in this area due to a red pine scale insect infestation on property.

A Subsurface Systems Bureau Individual Septic Disposal System Application DES File Number 201402231 for property identified as Map 411 Lot 4 – Mount Delight Rd, owned by Harlinda Webb. The application is being returned due to missing information.

A Subsurface Systems Bureau Individual Septic Disposal System Application DES File Number 201402426 for property identified as Map 207 Lots 19 & 24 – 4 Loon Ledge, owned by David Clement. The application is being returned due to missing information.

Serita Frey adjourned the meeting at **8:10 PM**.

The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, September 8th

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