

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2014

**Members Present** Erick Berglund, Deb Campelia, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett  
**Members Absent:** Jim Deely, Serita Frey Dave Linden

In the absence of Chair, Serita Frey, **Kate Hartnett called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.**

**Approval of Minutes:** Wes Golomb **moved to approve the minutes of the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.** A second by Erick Berglund was followed by a unanimous vote to approve.

**Finance:** Erick Berglund reported on his attendance at the **12/6/2014 meeting of the Board of Selectmen** at which time he **presented the DCC budget for approval.** Other than a question about the inclusion of the *Trails* line, there were no objections to the proposed amounts for 2015.

The balance in the **Conservation Fund for November was estimated to be \$198,232.79** which includes **interest in the amount of \$29.62** and reflects payment of the **Bear-Paw invoice of \$54,875.13 for services provided in establishing the Conservation Easement on seven Town Forests and Conservation Areas** which was approved for payment at the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Berglund has also requested **clarification of the amount of an Upton and Hatfield invoice paid in September.**

Erick Berglund moved to **reimburse the clerk for an expenditure of \$28.19 for supplies.** Deb Campelia seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

**2014 Annual Report:** The Clerk was asked to e-mail a copy of the **Draft of the 2014 Annual Report** for review, edits and additions by the members. A **deadline for completion was set for 12/31/2014.**

**Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM** was set as a tentative date and time for the site visit to the Kaatz property. Resident **Russ Kaatz** approached the DCC at its November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting with information about his property on **Mt. Delight Rd., Tax Map 411 Lot 42.** Mr. Kaatz, who is in the process of selling the lot, is **considering conserving the property as one of his options** and was, informed that the Commission might have an interest in acquiring it. The parcel, which abuts the Wells Town Forest and N H Fish & Game's Corey Wildlife Management Area, **would form an ~300 acre contiguous block of conserved land if preserved.** Kate Hartnett will contact Chair, Serita Frey after which arrangements will be finalized with Mr. Kaatz. Deb Campelia, Erick Berglund and Kate Hartnett have agreed to meet with the owner and walk the property. A **discussion of their field trip will be on the agenda for the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

**2016 Sestercentennial:** Erick Berglund stressed the need for DCC's participation in the Town's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Members' brainstorming resulted in the following ideas:

- Distribution of Trail Maps
  - Use Planning Board Trail Inventory
  - Enlist the assistance of Anne Deely
- A Chronology of how Deerfield's land has changed over time
  - UNH-Coverts Program presentation
  - Deb Campelia will research
- A history of the Conservation Commission from its inception
- A chronology of conserved lands
  - Use *Open Space Planning Maps* to show how green space grew over time
  - Give the history of each conserved parcel as it was added
- Photo Exhibit of Conserved Land – Wes Golomb

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**2014 Warrant Article:** Erick Berglund and Serita Frey along with Forestry's Phil Bilodeau and representatives of the Town's administration continue **to seek clarity in DCC's efforts to be reimbursed by the Forestry Committee for its expenditure for the development of management plans** for Freese Town Forest, Dowst-Cate/Weiss, McNeil, Arthur Chase, and most recently, Lindsay-Flanders. To date, the DCC has **paid \$5225 to Forester, Charlie Moreno**, initially having committed to cover an **estimated \$10,000 for the reports**, as a loan to the Forestry Committee until such time as these costs could be recouped from the proceeds of future timber harvests on the parcels. There is no objection on the part of the Forestry Committee to reimburse the DCC; however there is confusion as to what statutory process needs to be followed. **The following summarizes the situation to date:**

- March 2014 - DCC proposed a warrant article requesting reimbursement for the cost of the Town Forest Management Plans
- DCC article withdrawn as being procedurally incorrect, having been informed that the warrant article would need to be initiated by Forestry when funds became available
- DRA reviews proposed article and recommends the following warrant article:
  - *To see if the Town would raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the development of a Town Forest Management Plan and authorize that amount to come from the forest maintenance fund. Majority vote required*
- October 2014 meeting - members informed by the town's Finance Director that a *Bonds Escrow Account* had been set up in the budget for the *Forestry Fund* in the amount of \$1600.
- December 2014 – Check for \$1126.56 from Dowst-Cate harvest received and placed in General Fund
  - Town's auditors recommend a warrant article to set up a fund for the proceeds of the harvest, after which the harvest revenue could be transferred into the Forestry Fund
  - Subsequently determined that a special warrant would not be required to set up a fund since the fund had been authorized as part of the Town's vote to establish a Town Forest
  - *(See RSA 31:113 Appropriations Authorized) For the purposes of establishing or maintaining a city or town forest, a city or town may raise and appropriate such funds as it deems necessary. The proceeds from said forest shall be placed in a special forest maintenance fund and shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, unless otherwise voted by the legislative body of such city or town.*

Erick Berglund, after speaking with former DCC Chair, Frank Mitchell, and researching previous Town reports, noted that in **1990 a harvest at Dowst-Cate resulted in a year-end balance of \$3369.57**. The balance fluctuated in subsequent years and by 1998, disappeared altogether. **Further discussion resulted in the following proposed actions:**

- Inform Forestry Committee of disappearance of Forest Maintenance Fund and balance
- Suggest Forestry work with Finance Dept. to determine the balance of the Forestry Fund prior to the addition of the revenue from the Dowst-Cate harvest
- Request that Forestry recoup any lost Forestry Maintenance funds if identified
- Ask Forestry to determine the nature of the \$1600 in the *Bonds Escrow Account*
- Request clarification/itemization of the \$1126.56 received from the Dowst-Cate harvest
- Confirm with Forestry that the proceeds from the harvest are moved from the General Fund to the Forestry Fund
- Summarize events and request legal opinion from Attorney Raymond on how to proceed to obtain reimbursement
- Request update from Phil Bilodeau on status of Conservation Fund reimbursement warrant article and offer assistance if needed
- If necessary, request meeting with DCC, Forestry and Finance to coordinate next steps and resolve

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**Easement Monitoring:** Kate Hartnett will check with Al Jaeger on the status of the monitoring reports for Great Brook. Deb Campelia noted that a monitoring visit to the Curry property was forthcoming as well, pending availability of the owner.

**Correspondence:** DCC has received the following correspondence and notifications:

*A **Division of Forests and Lands notification of a variance granted for the Boyle property, Mt. Delight Rd., Map 411 Lot 12 and Map 411 Lot 26** issued to Patrick Kenney-Forester, for the removal of more than 50 percent of the basal area along 600 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 under the condition that any healthy, wind firm hardwood trees or white pine trees are retained within the 150 foot basal area buffer zone.*

*A Department of Environmental Services **Shoreland Impact Permit - 2014-03088 – Timothy Hahn – 2 Ski Doo Ln. – Deerfield Tax Map 206 Lot 17 – Impact 4,544 sq. ft. in order to reconstruct driveway with less impervious surface, construct new walkways, steps, and install a storm water management system.***

A motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM was approved unanimously.

**The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**

*(Please check the website for scheduling changes)*  
[townofdeerfieldnh.com](http://townofdeerfieldnh.com)

*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*