

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
1967 – FIFTY-SIX YEARS AND COUNTING – 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes - REVISED – November 13, 2023

Attendees: Haley Andreozzi, Ken Cohen, Serita Frey, Erroll Rhodes
Members Absent: Chloe Gross, Josh Freed
Visitors & Guests: Harrison O’Neal, Davis Brush

Chair Serita Frey convened the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Volunteer Project:

Harrison O’Neal presented a project he is proposing for Peg King Park. Mr. O’Neal hopes to perform blazing and trail work on the parcel in order to fulfill a Boy Scout merit badge requirement as he works toward his goal of attaining the rank of *Life Scout*; the second highest rank attainable in scouting.

Mr. O’Neal’s preliminary observations were that the **blazing of Peg King is inconsistent and in need of maintenance.** Haley Andreozzi concurred that **there was to have been a loop trail, but that it is confusing.** There does not seem to be a good map of the current trails for reference; however, it was suggested that Mr. O’Neal reach out to **former DCC member Jim Deely, who is familiar with the parcel and Town trails in general.** A blazing color consistent with colors being used on other Town parcels was suggested. Proposed new member Davis Brush could also provide input and guidance on the project. Improvements are welcome and Mr. O’Neal was asked to **inform Serita Frey when the project is completed.**

NOTE: Later in the meeting the members discussed using funds from the Trails line in the DCC budget to reimburse Mr. O’Neal’s expenses for the Peg King project. Mr. Cohen offered to walk the trail with someone to gain familiarity. Additionally, Mr. Cohen suggested DCC offer appropriate postings to the owners of the conserved parcels that make up the *Great Brook Corridor* to **inform trail-users that the land (with the exception of the Marston Town Forest section), although conserved, is still privately-owned, and unauthorized activities and any alterations on any of the parcels requires approval from the individual landowners.** *A list of Town-owned conservation lands and permitted uses taken from the DCC 2022 Town Report is included as an addendum to these minutes.*

Motion:

Erroll Rhodes moved to reimburse the cost of re-blazing the trails at Peg King Park

Haley Andreozzi seconded the motion

Vote: *The vote was unanimous*

Membership:

Birch Road resident Davis Brush approached the DCC to be considered for membership. DCC currently has one three-year position available, which when filled, will realize DCC’s goal of having a full seven-member team with two alternates.

Mr. Brush shared information about his background and current position as the **Program Manager for the Student Conservation Association (SCA) NH Conservation Corps based out of Bear Brook State Park.** In this role, Mr. Brush works with Towns, commissions, boards, non-profits, and state and federal governments to provide...*environmental and recreational programming as well as land and trail management...* across the state. SCA New Hampshire is a partnership between the Student Conservation Association, The New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and AmeriCorps <https://www.thesca.org/program/young-adult/corps/new-hampshire-corps/>. Mr. Brush also brings with him his experience as a **former member of the Lamprey River Watershed Association.** As a **10-year Deerfield resident,** Mr. Brush would like to put his skills to work for the benefit of Deerfield.

In an effort to profile the work of the DCC for Mr. Brush, Chair Frey noted that the **commission is in the process of requesting proposals from applicants to perform a professional Natural Resource Inventory (NRI),** stressing the need for DCC to become more proactive in its approach. The NRI would give DCC a guiding document from which to make more strategic decisions. The Conservation Fund is increasing and is **close to reaching its current cap of \$500,000 in Land Use Change Tax funding, and the commission anticipates submitting a warrant article in 2024 to increase the cap.** **Expanding public outreach** will help to demonstrate the positive manner in which funds are being spent.

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
1967 – FIFTY-SIX YEARS AND COUNTING – 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes - REVISED – November 13, 2023

Haley Andreozzi offered that **DCC's work has been primarily *behind the scenes***, with not a great deal of public exposure. Over the years DCC has worked with the Planning Board to revise the wetland zoning provisions, and, in its advisory capacity, the commission **reviews three to four wetland permits per year**, primarily Conditional Use Permit applications from Eversource. DCC also **addresses private resident concerns** by investigating potential wetland violations. In addition, DCC's past accomplishments include the **permanent protection of Deerfield's Town Forests and Conservation Areas** through the conveyance of a conservation easement deed on these parcels. DCC also participates in **land acquisition and funding of conservation easements** (through a collaboration with private owners and land trusts), usually in amounts in the range of \$14,000 to \$20,000 per easement to cover transaction costs. Pre-Covid, DCC facilitated a number of more complex projects involving both donated land, funding grants, and larger expenditures. The Commission is once again **working with the reinvigorated Forestry Committee** whose members are currently reviewing the existing forest management plans that are due for an update.

Asked if he wished to attend a few additional meetings prior to deciding to join, **Mr. Brush indicated he was ready to commit to being nominated.**

Motion:

Serita Frey moved to nominate Davis Brush to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission for a three-year term expiring on April 30, 2026.

Ken Cohen seconded the motion

Vote: *The vote was unanimous*

Ken Cohen mentioned that the membership roster on the DCC section of the Town website is not up to date. The clerk will request the addition of Mr. Cohen, Ms. Marshall (alternate), and Mr. Brush (after his BOS appointment).

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

*Serita Frey moved to approve the minutes of the **October** regular meeting.*

Haley Andreozzi seconded the motion

Discussion:

Additions/Corrections: The deadline for proposals for the NRI (December 1, 2023) was omitted and the Town of *Amherst* was misspelled.

Vote: *The **October** minutes were approved with the above revisions.*

Finance Report:

STATEMENT balances in the conservation fund:

October Ending Balance	\$ 401,468.81	(Includes Interest of \$851.56 (Earned in Sept. & posted in Oct.)
LUCT – Through Q2 2023	\$ 45,500	

Finance Officer Erroll Rhodes reported that the NHACC invoice being paid is actually for 2024 dues. It is unclear how it will be recognized for accounting and budget purposes. An explanation for the welcome increase in interest will also be explored.

Public Outreach:

Mr. Rhodes reported on anticipated offerings for publication in the *Dooryard Gazette*. Reporting on the ongoing work of the DCC, and the status of the natural resources inventory RFP can also be included.

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
1967 – FIFTY-SIX YEARS AND COUNTING – 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes - REVISED – November 13, 2023

Natural Resources Inventory:

Serita Frey reported that the *Request for Proposals* (RFP) for the Natural Resources Inventory has gone out to the *listserv* and to various contacts. John Harrington has also posted the RFP on the Town website. Chair Frey has received several responses requesting additional information, but to date no one has submitted an actual proposal. Erroll Rhodes attended three workshop sessions at the November 4th NHACC Annual Meeting and Conference, including a workshop on natural resources inventories.

Regulated Wetlands & Shorelands:

Potential impact from activity on the Lamprey River

Ken Cohen reported on his phone conversation with a representative from DES who indicated that the section of the Lamprey in question is a 3rd order stream, and only 4th order streams or higher are considered to be protected under the Shoreline Protection Act. Mr. Cohen can share the information with the complainants. Although there is not much additional information to report, DES requested implementation of appropriate sediment controls and indicated there would be future follow-up.

Protected Shoreland FAQ's: <https://www.des.nh.gov/protected-shoreland-faq#faq30971>

Serita Frey adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

See Attached Additional Information Below

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on Monday, December 11, 2023

(Please check the website townofdeerfieldnh.com for scheduling changes) These minutes were prepared and submitted by Judy Marshall. Revisions, if any, will be contained in the minutes of the next meeting and posted to the Town website, after approval by the Deerfield Conservation Commission

Town of Deerfield Conservation Land

Conservation land in Deerfield includes both privately-owned and town-owned land protected by conservation easements granted to qualified land trusts such as the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, the Southeast Land Trust, Rockingham County Conservation District, the USDA Wetland Reserve Program, and others. Currently **996 acres of town-owned parcels** in Deerfield are permanently protected by conservation easements.

▪ Arthur Chase Town Forest	Tax Map 414 Lot 73	40 Acres
▪ Edythe H. Boisvert Town Forest	Tax Map 404 Lot 2	185 Acres
▪ Freese Town Forest	Tax Map 410 Lot 32	178 Acres
▪ Dowst-Cate Town Forest & Park	Tax Map 416 Lot 16	100 Acres
▪ Hart Town Forest	Tax Map 403 Lot 2	71 Acres
▪ Lindsay-Flanders Conservation Area	Tax Map 415 Lot 30	58 Acres
▪ Marston Family Town Forest	Tax Map 409 Lot 54	128 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

Visitors are encouraged to freely roam Deerfield’s conservation areas but are reminded that only non-motorized access is allowed. Carry in – Carry out. Below are permitted and not-permitted activities.

<u>Permitted Uses</u>	<u>Prohibited Uses</u>
<u>Non-Motorized Activities, Including:</u>	<u>Motorized Vehicle Use, Including:</u>
Walking, hiking, trail running	ATV’s, Snowmobiles, Mud Trucks
Cross country skiing	Mountain Bikes & Dirt Bikes
Snowshoeing	
Wildlife observation	Fires or firewood collection
Orienteering	Horseback riding
Photography	Camping, large group games
Dog walking – leash and scoop	Target Shooting