

**Town of Deerfield
Deerfield Conservation Commission
December 13, 2010
Minutes**

Present: Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden, Diane Thompson, Frank Mitchell (volunteer)

Members Absent: None

Visitors: Residents of Cottonwoods Estate and Don McMurchy and Jeff MacLeod from the Northwood Crankpullers Snowmobile Club attended to discuss the conservation easement violation on the open space portion of the Cottonwoods subdivision. The easement, held by the Town of Deerfield, restricts the use of the property to forestry purposes and non-motorized recreational uses. The BOS, at their Dec 6, 2010 meeting asked the DCC to determine the appropriate steps necessary to enforce the terms of the easement. The Snowmobile Club has offered to install a gate, at no cost to the Town, to keep motorized traffic out of conserved portion of the property. The Town would retain access to the property for emergency and forestry-related purposes. Concerns raised by residents included homeowner liability should someone be hurt by the gate and homeowner access to property. It was also noted that property boundaries are not clearly delineated. Questions were also raised about the bridge that was recently replaced on an adjacent property. Don McMurchy and Jeff MacLeod indicated that the bridge was properly permitted by DES and is more than a foot higher than the old bridge. A beaver dam downstream is currently backing water up, which may make the bridge appear lower than it actually is.

Richard Boisvert attended to discuss the possibility of protecting ~150 acres of forest land on Swamp Road near the Epsom boundary. The property is a mixed hardwood forest with variable terrain and has high conservation value due to its proximity to the Wells and Freese Town Forests. The property also abuts a property of ~300 acres under a conservation easement held by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests. It is also in one of the largest forest blocks in the region. The DCC set an appointment for Tues December 28 at 10 am to walk the property and to further discuss the potential project.

Frank Mitchell gave the DCC a set of maps from the first natural resources inventory using GIS from 1991.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the November 2010 minutes as written.

Financial Officer's Report:

- The current balance of the Conservation Fund as of 11/30/10 was \$355,470.07.
- A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to reimburse the Graykins for the appraisal costs associated with protection of their property.
- A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to pay 2010 dues to BearPaw, the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions, and the Lamprey Watershed Association.

Strategic Planning Update: None

Land Conservation:

- The DCC, with assistance from BearPaw, has received a \$4000 grant from the Piscatiqua Region Estuaries Partnership to offset costs associated with the conservation of the McGarry property. The MOU has been signed by the McGarrys.
- Land Protection Project: A draft of the 2011 warrant article has been submitted to the BOS and Town Attorney for review. The DCC has asked for BOS support of this measure.

Regulated Wetlands: None

New Business:

- Easement monitoring for 2010 was discussed. Frank Mitchell has completed the monitoring for Freese Town Forest. Kate Harnett will contact Al Jaeger to determine if monitoring has been completed for the Great Brook Corridor.
- An Eagle Scout is proposing to complete a project at Peg King Park. This project should be coordinated with the DCC. Dave Linden will contact the scout master to discuss the project in more detail and invite him and the Eagle Scout to attend the next DCC meeting.

Old Business:

- Kate Hartnett talked with Charlie Moreno about the status of the Town Forest Management Plan and discussed the possibility of a joint harvest with Fish & Game of the Wells/Cory Town Forests.
- Kate Hartnett reminded the DCC of the need for new DCC members and volunteers

Announcements & Correspondence: None

Adjournment: 9:15 pm

The minutes were prepared and submitted by Serita Frey. Pending approval by the Deerfield Conservation Committee. Final revisions to these minutes will be contained in the minutes of the following meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

Serita Frey: contact Town Council regarding review of warrant article and status of Attorney General investigation.

Kate Hartnett: contact Al Jaegar regarding easement monitoring

Dave Linden: contact eagle scout master to discuss Peg King Park project

Erick Berglund: contact Dan Kern at BearPaw to discuss McGarry easement and PREP grant