

**DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**1967 – FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING – 2022**  
**Minutes - Non-Quorum Proceeding – September 12, 2022**

**Attendance:** Haley Andreozzi, Erroll Rhodes, Wes Golomb  
**Members Absent:** Chloe Gross, Josh Freed, Serita Frey  
**Visitors & Guests:** Duane Hyde, Southeast Land Trust

Haley Andreozzi convened the proceeding at 7:04 pm, noting that a quorum was not present. As such, no official minutes are required; however, the following record of the proceeding is being submitted in the interest of transparency. Members received information and entered into discussions on various topics; however, no votes were taken and all decisions were tabled till October.

**Easements and Land Conservation:**

**The Robert Rix Family Forest**

Duane Hyde, Land Conservation Director of *Southeast Land Trust* (SELT) presented information about a conservation project they have undertaken to protect two parcels owned by William Rix which abut the Deerfield fairgrounds to the west. Map 424 Lot 103 has 340 feet of frontage on Cotton Rd. and Lot 108 has 1,910 feet of frontage on Raymond Rd. Frontage on the Lamprey River is 2,755 feet and the combined acreage is approximately 80 acres. **Mr. Rix intends to donate the land to SELT**, which will own the property in fee. 100 acres on the east side of Raymond Rd. is owned by Mr. Rix's brother, who also has an interest in conserving his land in the future.

**The property has been very well managed by Forester Charlie Moreno** and consists primarily of pine-oak forests and hemlock. *A large wetland, associated with the Lamprey is a mix of red maple forested wetlands, scrub shrub wetlands, and open wetlands.* **SELT would have the option of allowing hunting, fishing and pedestrian access** under its ownership (the property is currently posted). **Trails have not been ruled out but are not a consideration in the near term.** Attributes include high rankings based on criteria in the *Wildlife Actin Plan*. Various portions of the property provide floodplain and water protection in addition to safeguarding Blanding's Turtle, birds and fish (*NH F&G Aquatic Wildlife Action Plan*). **56.6 acres would add to an existing 368-acre unfragmented forest block.**

In order to cover the **project-related costs estimated at \$111,091**, SELT has been awarded a **\$19,068 grant from the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership**. In order to cover a funding gap of \$92,068, SELT is in the process of **requesting an additional \$25,000 from the Lamprey River Advisory Committee** (LRAC) and is **pursuing private donations of \$42,000**. Closing is expected prior to the end of 2022.

Mr. Hyde explained that **SELT was not coming before the DCC to request funding for the project**, knowing that at the present time DCC cannot partner with SELT on the project without the Town being conveyed a legal interest in the property. Mr. Hyde explained that instead, **SELT is making a general funding request of \$25,000** “...to be put toward SELT staff time spent in Deerfield related to SELT's general conservation work in Town and toward SELT's Land Management Fund” which is defined as “...a pooled fund for all the land SELT owns, including land in Deerfield such as the Howard Swain Memorial Forest and the future Robert Rix Family Forest.”

**Members responded favorably to the project in general**, but given the lack of a quorum, no decision could be made on the donation. Mr. Hyde was informed that **the Commission would need to look into its ability to provide the requested contribution**, and would continue the discussion in October.

**Members once again discussed the pros and cons of holding an executory interest in conservation easements** to which it contributes toward transaction costs. This has been the procedure with the Bear-Paw easements. Holding an executory interest can be viewed either as a liability (creating a potential legal obligation to take over the management of the easement if the land trust holding the easement fails to perform), or as an asset (providing a legal means of maintaining oversight of the land trust holding the easement, ensuring it fulfills its obligations).

**Finance:**

**The balance in the Conservation Fund at the end of August was \$366,769.90** which includes **interest of \$192.83**. Invoices covering contributions to the Mathews and Bradbury projects of \$18,015 and \$22,000 respectively are anticipated.

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**Approval of Minutes:**

In the absence of a quorum, **approval of the minutes was tabled** until the October meeting.

**Stewardship/Easement Monitoring:**

**NH Tree Farm Program**

**DCC received notification from the NH Tree Farm Program that the Town’s participating acreage is due for its 6-year re-inspection.** Town Forester Charlie Moreno was informed on 9/1/2022 and responded that he would arrange for the inspection. Additionally, Mr. Moreno was asked to identify the parcels and corresponding acreage currently in the program. Previously, Mr. Moreno indicated that Dowst-Cate/Weiss comprised most of the acreage.

**Regulated Wetlands & Shorelands:**

**Utility Statutory Permit-by-Notification (RSA 482-A) NHDES File Number: 2021-03841**

*The above PBN may relate to the Eversource CUP – Structure Replacement Project along the 373, 385 & 391 Transmission Lines – See 5/9/2022 minutes - Presentation by Conor Madison, GZA - Eversource File No. 04.0190999.86*

**Announcements/Correspondence/Reminders:**

**Lamprey River – Dam**

**DCC received a letter from resident Patrick Cassier expressing concerns regarding a dammed section on the Lamprey River** on the west side of Routes 43 and 107. Mr. Cassier felt that the river was being detrimentally impounded, resulting in the growth of vegetation and a corresponding rise in water temperature. Mr. Cassier further noted that a potential trout stream had become a “home for a variety of warm water species”. Serita Frey felt that the dam could be a natural result of debris buildup, and if so, that nothing should be done. **A copy of Mr. Cassier’s letter was forwarded to the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC), and a phone message was left for Mr. Cassier** informing him of the action DCC had taken, including the dates for the next LRAC and DCC meetings. To date DCC has not had a response from LRAC or Mr. Cassier.

**Energy Expo**

Wes Golomb announced that **Deerfield’s Energy Committee is sponsoring an Energy Expo on October 15<sup>th</sup>** at the Town Hall. A series of workshops is planned and representatives from a number of local renewable energy companies will be available to offer information and resources.

**Bear-Paw Appreciation Plaque**

**DCC received a plaque from Bear-Paw in appreciation of its years-long endeavor to acquire and permanently protect what is now called the Marston Family Town Forest.** The project, begun in 2014, was an LCHIP/Bear-Paw/Town collaboration with Gile Beye, the donor of the property. The project was finally completed with the passage of a warrant article in 2021. **The 128-acre Town-owned parcel off Nottingham Road is part of the Great Brook Corridor.**

**Mapping Tool Orientation**

The technology group from *Cartographics Associates* has scheduled a presentation on **September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the GBW.** The new mapping tool being previewed would allow participating Town boards and commissions to include additional informational layers to the town’s maps.

**The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2022**

*(Please check the website [townofdeerfieldnh.com](http://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*