

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
1967 – FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING – 2022
Minutes - Non-Quorum Proceeding – October 17, 2022

Attendance: Erroll Rhodes, Wes Golomb
Members Absent: Haley Andreozzi, Chloe Gross, Josh Freed, Serita Frey
Visitors & Guests: Therese Thompson (LRAC)

The proceeding convened at 7:05 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 November.

Therese Thompson, the Town of Raymond's representative to the *Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee (LRAC)*, presented information promoting the importance and attributes of the Lamprey Rivers. The Lamprey River watershed covers 214 square miles. The system is comprised of six rivers that include the *main stem* Lamprey, and its tributaries, the Little North, the North Branch, the Pawtuckaway and the Picassic, covering fourteen towns from Northwood to Newmarket, and ultimately emptying into Great Bay, 49 miles from the Lamprey's origin in the Saddleback Mountains in Northwood. The lower 24 miles of the *main stem* Lamprey in Lee, Durham and Newmarket are designated into the *National Wild and Scenic Rivers System*. As noted in their informational pamphlet, *The main duties of the committee are to create an advisory rivers management plan and to comment on proposed projects that are within a quarter mile of the rivers*. Information can be viewed at www.lampreyriver.org. **Information about and a link to the LRAC website will be posted on the DCC Facebook page.**

Ms. Thompson informed the members that the **LRAC does not currently have a representative from Deerfield** and encouraged the participation of one or more (up to four) DCC members on the committee. Given DCC's current membership situation, any recommendations to the BOS to appoint volunteers will likely need to wait until January. **LRAC meetings are open to the public, and are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the Public Safety Complex located at 20 George Bennett Road in Lee.**

Ms. Thompson also offered information on **LRAC's Community Grants Program**, *intended to support community efforts that protect or enhance river resources or needs that build on goals identified in the Lamprey Rivers Management Plan 2013 Update*. **Grants are available in amounts up to \$7,500.** It was noted that as part of its work, LRAC contributed to Deerfield's 2010 Community Trail Inventory and Plan, and more recently, advocated against the Northern Pass Project. **LRAC recently committed to contributing \$25,000 toward the preservation of the William Rix property** which borders the Lamprey adjacent to the Deerfield fairgrounds. **Two parcels in excess of 81 acres are being acquired by the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) which is endeavoring to raise \$111,091 to fund the project.**

Ms. Thompson asked that a **link to the LRAC website be included on the Town's DCC website** along with an existing link to the *Lamprey River Watershed Association (LRWA)* www.lrwa-nh.org which is comprised of volunteers from the fourteen towns in the Lamprey River's drainage area. **The LRAC and the LRWA often work closely together to protect and enhance the natural assets of the river.**

There was a short discussion of a letter previously received from resident Patrick Cassier expressing concerns about a dammed section on the Lamprey River on the west side of Routes 43 and 107 that was sent to LRAC for their input. Neither DCC nor LRAC were able to determine the precise location of what may be a natural impoundment. **There has been no response to date to a phone message left for Mr. Cassier** requesting additional information and informing him of the action DCC had taken.

Stewardship/Easement Monitoring:

Will Frey plans to monitor and submit the required **2022 monitoring reports** for the LCIP-funded Marston, Pendleton and Bear-Paw/Burbank parcels that are part of the Great Brook Corridor. It is anticipated that Al Jaeger will also be monitoring additional Great Brook LCIP parcels.

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UNH Furbearer Research Project

DCC received an update from Andrew Butler of UNH about the results of its ongoing furbearer research project. **Permission was given in 2021 to conduct fieldwork on the Arthur Chase Town Forest** including *deployment of a trail camera in the summer and track stations in the fall to gather data on furbearer occurrence*. Additional camera sites included the NH Fish & Game Corey Wildlife Management Area, and the UNH Saddleback Mountain property.

Species detected on Arthur Chase included Bear, Bobcat, Cottontail, Coyote, Deer, Gray Squirrel, Raccoon and Wild Turkey. In addition to the above, **other species detected across all the sites** included Dog, Chipmunk, Snowshoe Hare, Red fox, Woodchuck, Beaver, Fisher, Opossum, Red Squirrel and Weasel. Permission has been given for the collection of data at Chase for the next three years. **Information about the research will be posted on DCC's Facebook page.**

Easements and Land Conservation:

The Robert Rix Family Forest

In September, the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) approached DCC members and made **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.” **The decision has been tabled until a legal opinion is received regarding the potential transaction and, in the absence of a quorum, until further discussion by the full membership can take place.**

DCC anticipates placing a warrant article on the ballot in 2023 which would allow expenditures toward projects such as the Rix project without the Town holding an Executory Interest. The pros and cons of not holding an interest have been and will be the topic of discussion when DCC meets with a full slate of members.

Eversource CUP Application Review:

Eversource is in the process of submitting an application for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for work on an Optical Ground Wire near the Deerfield substation, along its Right-of-Way in Deerfield and adjoining towns. **Work is anticipated to begin in Spring/Summer 2023.** Matting and best management practices will be used to minimize wetland impacts, none of which are anticipated to be permanent.

Eversource has contacted DCC requesting a review of their application prior to submitting it to the Planning Board for a hearing on 11/23. Jake Tinus from VHB is representing Eversource and will submit a set of plans electronically after 11/4 for DCC member review. **Mr. Tinus will be attending DCC's 11/14 meeting to get member feedback.** DCC will make its recommendations to the Planning Board, if any, prior to the 11/23 hearing. DCC will be copied on the DES Utility Statutory Permit by Notification in early 2023.

Approval of Minutes:

In the absence of a quorum, **approval of the August and September minutes was tabled** until the November meeting.

Finance:

The balance in the Conservation Fund at the end of September was \$366,995.69 which included interest of 226.09. It is expected that **3rd Quarter Land Use Change Tax in the amount of \$46,571 will post in October.** Reductions covering contributions to the Mathews and Bradbury projects of \$18,015 and \$22,000 respectively are also anticipated.

Regulated Wetlands & Shorelands – Permits/Applications/Potential Violations:

It was questioned whether there is a wetland permit on file, or if one is required, **for activity taking place at 64 Raymond Road.** An excavator located next to a pond on the property has raised concerns; however, it is unknown if the pond is manmade, or a natural feature.

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There has been further disturbance to the Moschella property on Nottingham Rd. Additional gravel was spread next to the stream and there is a 275-gallon oil drum in the stream, possibly being used to collect water. A complaint was filed by DCC to DES in April 2022. Filing a follow-up with DES alerting them of the new violations is a possible option.

Corrected Letter from 8/26/22 Utility SPN

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

Forestry Statutory Permit-by-Notification (RSA 482-A) – NHDES File #2022-02651

Deerfield Map 406 Lot 36 Saddleback Mtn. Rd. – UNH c/o Steve Eisenhaure – 333 Knox Marsh Rd – Madbury, NH 03823

Announcements/Correspondence/Reminders:

Energy Expo

Wes Golomb announced that a video of **the October 15th Energy Expo** sponsored by the Deerfield Energy Committee is hoped to be available in the near future. Additional information and resources can be found at www.nhenergygeek.org.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 14, 2022

(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