

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2018

Members Present: Haley Andreozzi, Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett
Members Absent: Ben Minerd
Visitors/Guests: None

At 7:05 pm Chair Serita Frey called the meeting to order and made introductions.

Easements & Land Protection:

Open Space development on Mt Delight Road (Map 413 Lot 62): This subdivision, currently before the Planning Board, would consist of three duplex condominiums situated on 3 to 4 acres, with an open space area of approximately 27 acres to be conveyed to the Town. **Members reviewed the sample conservation warranty deed provided by Eric Mitchell last month.** The choices are to **incorporate use restrictions for the open space area into the deed conveyed from the developer to the Town, as in the sample, or to create a separate conservation easement deed for the parcel after the change of ownership is finalized.** Members determined that **additional information was needed to make an informed decision.** Chair Frey suggested DCC could obtain a legal opinion after reviewing the results of Ms. Andreozzi's research with the NH Land Trust Coalition and NHACC. It was confirmed that **no emails were received from Mr. Mitchell since the last DCC meeting and that there was no response to the clerk's attempt to reach him.**

Project #31: Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett and Dan Kern met with the property owner on January 23rd and defined the next steps needed to meet a completion date of March 31st. The Deerfield Planning Board has scheduled a public hearing for the plan to subdivide the 128 Ac conserved parcel from the 38 Ac area on February 28th. Dan Kern has been contacted to clarify questions related to the existing structure of the easement deed on the conserved area related to LCIP and LCHIP interests, and whether the deed can be modified to include language regulating the creation of trails. Members agreed to hold the **public hearing for the expenditure on the 38 Ac parcel on March 12th.** The Town Administrator will be consulted to schedule any additional BOS public hearings that may be required.

Project #35: Members will need additional time to **review this project and the DCC budget after completion of Project #31.** At the January meeting, Dan Kern from Bear-Paw stated he would continue moving forward with the Epsom piece of the project, research funding opportunities, and keep DCC in the loop.

Town Forest Protection – Boisvert Town Forest:

The most recent draft survey is being reviewed for accuracy. Volunteer Frank Mitchell has been researching the history and status of access to the property in order to verify the notes section of the survey. Mr. Mitchell will be reviewing the town reports for 1931 and 1933 this week. Final language for the easement deed is pending.

Serita Frey moved **to pay an amount not to exceed \$13,000 for the remaining cost of the survey, contingent on the satisfactory finalization of the survey.** Kate Hartnett seconded the motion which was **approved unanimously.** Erick Berglund noted that a payment of \$4,000 was approved last year. Dan Kern will oversee the recording of the Mylar of the survey at Rockingham County Recorder of Deeds.

Approval of Minutes: A motion by Chair Serita Frey to approve the **minutes of the January 22nd meeting** was followed by a second by Kate Hartnett and passed unanimously.

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – **February 12, 2018**

Finance: Erick Berglund reported a **December 31st balance in the conservation fund of \$350,235.89** reflecting interest of \$75.20 and an adjustment for an unrecorded check from February 2017. The 50% portion of Fourth Quarter 2017 Land Use Change Tax in the amount of \$3,805 will be reflected in the January conservation fund balance report. An additional \$695.06 representing the DCC 2017 budget surplus is expected to be deposited into the conservation fund in January. DCC has the Town's support for conservation to thank for this practice.

Regulated Wetlands:

NEW Wetland Notifications:

Complete Forestry Notification - Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification – DES File #2018-00264
Kathleen & Roscoe Blaisdell – Lang Rd. Map 414 Lot 106-1

Announcements/Correspondence/Reminders:

Members were informed of the NH Department of Environmental Services' release of a **draft revision of the New Hampshire wetlands rules**; the first complete rewrite of the rules since 1991. NHDES is now accepting public comments on the draft wetland rules and will be hosting five public input sessions in the following locations: Concord: *February 26*, Portsmouth: *February 28*, Laconia: *March 1*, Keene: *March 5*, and Lancaster: *March 7, 2018*. **Comments may be submitted electronically to: MaryAnn.Tilton@des.nh.gov**. Be sure to include: **2018 Wetlands Rules Comments** in the subject line of your email. Ms. Tilton can also be reached at **(603) 271-2929**. **Deadline for comments is April 20th**.

Members extended a big **“Thank You” to members Kate Hartnett and Erick Berglund** for the immense amount of work that went into their efforts to represent DCC and Deerfield interests during the Northern Pass proposal. The process entailed filing Pre Filed and Supplemental Testimony and attending Technical Sessions in 2016-2017 and more than 70 adjudicative hearings from April to December 2017. That process was “intensely invasive” and extremely time intensive to the lives of everyone involved. Ms. Hartnett felt that in spite of the burdens it placed on everyone involved, it was an experience that was in many ways refreshing because of the opportunity for interaction with the many intelligent and talented local people who stepped up to represent the 31 communities, from Pittsburg to Deerfield. Ms. Hartnett also stressed that because of the rules of the process, no one of the seven members on the SEC knew how the others would vote ahead of the 1 Feb 2018 decision. .

DCC is grateful for their diligence, and delighted to have them back!

It was noted that we have Eversource to “thank” for the Scenic Road signs that have popped up around town. They were the result of **mitigation for previous tree cutting on scenic roads without a Planning Board public hearing as required by NH RSA 231:158**. **Many thanks to resident Jo Anne Bradbury** for suggesting the signs as a solution, **and to the Deerfield Road Agent Mark Young for their installation!**

Chair Serita Frey adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 12, 2018

(Please check the website for scheduling changes)

townofdeerfieldnh.com

These minutes were prepared and submitted by Judy Marshall. Revisions, if any, will be contained in the minutes of the following meeting, and an amended version will be posted to the website, after approval by the Deerfield Conservation Commission