

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – **September 9, 2019**

Members Present: Brian Adams, Haley Andreozzi, Serita Frey, Erick Berglund, Wes Golomb
Members Absent: None
Visitors & Guests: Jeni Menendez (Eversource), Sherrie Trefry (VHB/Eversource), Sylvia von Aulock (Deerfield Town Planner), Spencer Tate, Phil Bilodeau, Eric Sunderlind, Chris Carr

Serita Frey opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Jeni Menendez (Eversource Permitting Specialist) and Sherrie Trefry, CSS (VHB Director of Energy and Environmental Services) previewed Eversource plans for structure replacements on its C129 transmission lines. The project is part of a larger maintenance program.

There are two sites for the work at **27 Cate Road adjacent to the Deerfield Substation (Tax Map 408, Lot 49)**. Eversource intends to replace two 50-year old deteriorated wooden poles (Structures 1 and 2, including guy wires on Structure 1) with metal poles of similar design having a life expectancy of 70 to 80 years. Work on pad area #1 is expected to result in temporary wetland impacts of 6,122 square feet. Construction of a bridge over an intermittent stream needed for access to the sites will result in an additional 750 square feet of temporary impact. There will be no interruption to stream flow. Work on pad #2 does not result in any impacts to the wetlands located on either side of it.

The **maintenance will occur over a period of three weeks** (site prep/pole replacement/site restoration) beginning in October. No interruption to customer service is anticipated. **DES and Eversource will be notified of any permit compliance issues detected by VHB** during its weekly environmental inspections and DES and the Town will be informed of any formal changes to the plan.

Members and guests expressed concerns based on prior experience with Eversource projects. **It was suggested that NH DES be asked to evaluate the site upon completion**, and that the Planning Board once again require **a deposit for the Town Engineer to perform periodic inspections**. Eversource is in the process of filing an NH DES Wetlands application and will be presenting its application for a Conditional Use Permit to the Deerfield Planning Board for impacts to the Wetlands Conservation District. Comments should be submitted to the Planning Board by September 25th.

Turtle Crossing Signs:

At the suggestion of resident Chris Carr, **members agreed to Mr. Carr's offer to purchase and be reimbursed for two pairs of "Turtle Crossing" road signs to be erected in May 2020**. Signs will be purchased from the NH Department of Corrections at **\$170.00 per pair** after member approval of the final selection. Haley Andreozzi will reach out to her resources at NH Fish & Game to coordinate the strategic placement of the signs. DCC voted in favor of the purchase at its June 2019 regular meeting. Serita Frey will follow up on the **replacement for the Dowst-Cate Town Forest sign**.

Wetland Buffer Zoning: Sylvia von Aulock and members reviewed **suggested updates to the Deerfield Zoning Ordinance Section 210 – Wetlands Conservation District**, that would not only clarify the language, but more importantly, bring the existing ordinance in line with the definition used by the State of New Hampshire i.e. as defined in the Army Corps of Engineers manual. Additionally, **it is proposed that the wetland district boundaries include upland areas within 100 feet of the jurisdictional wetland area**.

Also addressed were **permitted and prohibited uses (within both the wetland and the buffer) and exclusions**. Another proposed update would require all **newly created lots to contain a minimum of 1 acre of contiguous upland soils**, and **replace the word "building" with "structure"** as it relates to the prohibition of placement within 100 feet of any wetland. Ms. von Aulock suggested **further definition of the term "buffer"**.

DCC will make a preliminary **presentation to the Planning Board at its October 9th meeting** to familiarize them with the draft proposal, and follow up with a **final, legally vetted version in November**. The goal is to receive final Planning Board **approval in December for inclusion of the amendment on the 2020 Town Meeting ballot**.

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Finance: Erick Berglund reported an *unofficial* ending Conservation Fund balance for **July 30, 2019 of \$198,300.53** reflecting credits of **\$7,197.19** representing DCC's 50% share of Land Use Change Tax for Second Quarter 2019, and interest of **\$40.86**. The *unofficial* ending Conservation Fund balance for **August 31, 2019** was **\$168,328.96** reflecting an interest credit of **\$41.08** and project payments approved in May for Boisvert Town Forest, Mathes North Rd. and Mathes Raymond Rd. in the amounts of \$14,943.57, \$12,671.08 and \$2,400.00 respectively totaling **\$30,014.65**.

DCC received reimbursement from Bear-Paw of **\$16,000 representing a transaction grant awarded by the Merrimack Conservation Partnership**. The award covers DCC's survey costs associated with the conveyance of the easement to Bear-Paw that now permanently protects the Boisvert Town Forest.

Budget: Serita Frey moved to **approve the proposed 2020 draft budget** in the amount of **\$3,551.00**. A second by Wes Golomb was followed with unanimous approval.

Approval of Minutes: Serita Frey moved to approve the **minutes of the July 8th meeting**. Haley Andreozzi seconded the motion which passed with Wes Golomb abstaining.

Project #31: 128 Acre Parcel - (Marston Farm - Pendleton Parcel)

The June 30th LCHIP deadline for project completion has been extended for one year. Questions regarding the easement deed posed by Town Counsel, Jim Raymond have been referred to Bear-Paw attorneys for their response. Final acceptance by DCC members is on hold pending Jim Raymond's review.

Project #35: Epsom/Deerfield

Project on Hold

Project #38: Mathes Property: Map 418 Lots 22, 23 & 78 – Raymond Rd

Project on Hold

Energy Update: Member Wes Golomb reported that energy-saving improvements at the GBW appear to have **resulted in a significant reduction in energy consumption** between the years of 2013 and 2019 with a corresponding reduction in energy costs of ~\$25,000. Mr. Golomb charted both electric and fuel oil for his analysis. Mr. Golomb also determined that a solar array installed on the roof of the GBW could supply 75% of the GBW's requirements but noted that the current composition of the roofing material was not appropriate for its installation. Members encouraged Mr. Golomb to present his study to the BOS along with his proposal to form an Energy Committee/Feasibility Committee.

NHDES - Revised Wetland Rules: Wetlands Rules Training: New wetlands rules have been adopted and are scheduled to be effective on December 15, 2019. NHDES trainings will be held on **September 26 in Concord, October 10 at the Pease office, and October 16 in Concord**. In cooperation with several stakeholders (including the NH Association of Conservation Commissions and the NH Municipal Association), NHDES will also be providing several overview sessions. Info on the content of the trainings, timeframes and online registration will be posted on the Wetlands Bureau webpage in the near future. <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/index.htm>

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2019

(Please check the website for scheduling changes)

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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