

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2019

Members Present: Brian Adams, Haley Andreozzi, Serita Frey, Erick Berglund, Wes Golomb

Members Absent: None

Visitors & Guests: Katrina Amaral, Bear-Paw

Serita Frey opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Katrina Amaral, Land Protection Specialist from Bear-Paw provided updated information on pending projects.

Project #31:

128 Acre Parcel - (Pendleton Parcel)

Questions regarding the easement deed posed by Town Counsel, Jim Raymond, were referred to Bear-Paw's attorneys who are reviewing the document with Attorney Raymond to clarify the legal aspects of the easement deed.

The draft language has been changing with attorney input and once all parties are in agreement, the final document will be presented to the members for approval, and to the BOS for signing. The June 30, 2019 LCHIP deadline for project completion was extended for one year.

Ms. Amaral noted that the most recent survey of the parcel was completed in the 1990's. According to the 11/7/2018 easement monitoring report, Al Jaeger and Will Frey "...walked the entire boundary and made several trips to interior sections." **Ms. Amaral will touch base with Mr. Jaeger with her questions about the parcel.**

38 Acre Parcel – (Marston Farm)

Bear-Paw's land protection committee has approved the revised **joint stewardship plan for the 38-acre and 15-acre parcels.**

Project #35: Epsom/Deerfield

The Deerfield portion of this joint project has been on hold pending input from the landowner. **Ms. Amaral stated that the owner has been told the property is a good timber lot and is looking at logging estimates.** That this parcel is land-locked, lacks accessibility for timber harvests, and is considered to be undevelopable were considered in DCC's previous decision-making process. **Serita Frey stated that Deerfield's conservation interest in the parcel is contingent on receiving grant funding,** noting that Deerfield's proportional share of an LCHIP grant awarded in November 2018 for this project will revert back to LCHIP if the project is not completed by its deadline of May 2020. Epsom is moving ahead independently from Deerfield.

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

This project is on Bear-Paw's back burner while **waiting for further input from the landowners.** The feeling is that these are valuable parcels and funding would not be a challenge. Ms. Amaral will inform DCC in advance of any funding initiatives.

Ms. Amaral asked **what degree of involvement DCC wanted going forward with respect to future projects.** Members agreed that although it might depend on the complexity of the project, in general **DCC would like to have more involvement including the ability to assess opportunities as they come up.** While Marston Farm was largely driven by the DCC, the Mathes North Road project didn't require the same degree of input. Members expressed the **need for more transparency and cross-sharing of information.** **DCC needs to be brought into the loop earlier instead of having projects presented "after the fact", resulting in DCC being reactive rather than proactive.** A preference was made for **projects that are opportunity-driven, based on conservation priorities such as greenways with open areas not yet conserved, and meeting criteria such as those defined in the Deerfield Open Space Plan and Bear-Paw's evaluation checklist for conservation projects.**

Erick Berglund requested an invoice from Bear-Paw for DCC's \$100 membership renewal.

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Wetland Buffer Zoning: Serita Frey and Haley Andreozzi attended the Planning Board Meeting on October 9th. Town Planner Sylvia von Aulock presented **proposed amendments to the Deerfield Zoning Ordinance Section 210- Wetlands Conservation District**, that serve to clarify the language and 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. In addition to a repurposed intent, it was **proposed that the wetland district boundaries include upland areas within 100 feet of the jurisdictional wetland area in order to maintain the function and value of the wetlands**. The expanded wetland **definition includes both the wetland and the 100 ft proposed surrounding buffer**. Proposed changes were generally well-received with the exception of the requirement for all newly created lots to contain 1 contiguous acre of upland soils. **The consensus was that the addition of the buffer negated the need for the minimum acreage requirement**. The provision will be eliminated from the proposed amendment.

Members discussed the need to define prohibited uses, concluding that DCC will review examples from nearby towns prior to making a final decision in November. It was noted that a list of prohibitions could be challenged if the use is not listed. Serita Frey will follow up with Ms. von Aulock regarding the November Planning Board meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Serita Frey moved to approve the **minutes of the September 9th regular meeting**. Erick Berglund seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Finance: Erick Berglund reported that the DCC's 2020 budget was approved by the BOS in September. Mr. Berglund requested approval to pay two **Upton and Hatfield legal invoices**, \$137.25 and \$536.84, from the Conservation Fund. Serita Frey seconded Mr. Berglund's **motion to pay a total of \$674.09** which passed unanimously. Mr. Berglund also moved to pay **membership dues in the amount of \$325.00 to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions**. Serita Frey seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Berglund reported an *official* final balance in the Conservation Fund 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 balance for **August 31, 2019** was **\$168,326.96** 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**. **(NOTE: the August balance was incorrectly reported as \$168,328.96 in the September minutes)**. The *unofficial* September 30, 2019 balance was **\$184,362.97** reflecting interest of **\$36.01** and a credit of **\$16,000 representing a transaction grant awarded by the Merrimack Conservation Partnership** reimbursed to the Town by Bear-Paw. The award covered DCC's survey costs associated with the conveyance of the easement to Bear-Paw that now permanently protects the Boisvert Town Forest.

Third Quarter 2019 Report: Serita Frey updated the BOS at its September meeting on **DCC activity for the third quarter of 2019**.

Turtle Crossing & Town Forest Signs: Haley Andreozzi reported that a representative from **NH Fish and Game will contact her when they are ready to provide guidance for the strategic placement of two pairs of "Turtle Crossing" road signs**. This project was recommended to the DCC by resident Chris Carr and approved by DCC members in June. Anticipated date for placement is May of 2020. Mr. Carr has also volunteered to contact the local Boy Scout troop and request a repair or replacement of the Dowst-Cate Town Forest sign. **Brian Adams will photograph the Freese Town Forest sign to be forwarded to Mr. Carr for reference**.

Bear Brook Steering Committee: Brian Adams reported that previous meetings of this committee, formed to **update the 1994 Bear Brook State Forest management plan**, addressed ecological and cultural resources, forestry and wildlife, with comments coming from the *Society for the Protection of NH Forests*. The plan's largest chapter will be taken up at the next meeting, addressing changes that have taken place in recreation over the years.
<https://www.nhstateparks.org/about-us/commissions-committees/bear-brook-state-park-management-plan-committee>

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Easement Monitoring: Al Jaeger has **completed the monitoring reports for 2018/2019** for five of the LCIP parcels in the Great Brook Corridor. Will Frey has arranged to monitor the sixth parcel, the Curry easement, with the landowner.

Regulated Wetlands & Shorelands – Permits/Applications:

- **Shoreland Permit Application NHDES File # 2019-10904**
24 Mt. View Rd, Map #208, Lot #120 – Lori/Michael Register – *After the Fact request to retain 11,871 Square feet of protected shoreland impacts associated with the construction of a combination of garage and child care facility accessory structure with driveway.*
- **Complete Forestry Notification** – NHDES File #2019-03212 – 279 Currier Rd – Map 422 Lot 1.1
- **Wetlands Permit by Notification** – Chris Collins – 4 Lake View Lane – Map 205 Lot 70
Replace existing retaining wall in-kind utilizing existing stone (Impact area 100 SF Forested Wetland)
- **NHDES Permit 2019-02119 Issued** – Cassier Family Trust – Candia Rd – Map 419 Lot 88/Unit 2
Dredge & Fill 320 SF of intermittent stream (Impacting 36 linear ft) 36” diameter x 36 ft long culvert to a single-family residential building lot (Subject to named conditions on permit)

Announcements/Correspondence/Reminders:

NHACC – copy of new handbook **“Trails for People and Wildlife” – Guide for Planning Trails that allow People to Enjoy Nature and Wildlife to Thrive** – (Member Haley Andreozzi was one of the editors of the guide)

Non-public Session:

At approximately **8:10 pm** Serita Frey moved to enter a non-public session under **RSA 91-A:3, II(a)**

*The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, **unless** the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted **which was followed by a roll call vote, with Adams, Andreozzi, Berglund, Golomb, and Frey voting in favor of the motion.***

At approximately **8:25 pm** the members re-entered public session. A motion by Serita Frey to seal the minutes was seconded by Erick Berglund and followed by a roll call vote with Adams, Andreozzi, Berglund, Golomb, and Frey voting in favor of the motion.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2019

(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 next meeting and posted to the Town website, after approval by the Deerfield Conservation Commis