

# DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2020

**Members Present:** Brian Adams, Erick Berglund, Wes Golomb  
**Members Absent:** Haley Andreozzi, Serita Frey  
**Visitors & Guests:** A.J. Bruno, Jeni Menendez, and Matt Flanders, Lindsey White

**Acting Chair, Erick Berglund opened the meeting at 7:12 pm.** It was noted that a quorum was not present and that no official decisions requiring a vote of the membership could be made.

**Lindsey White from the engineering firm of GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., and Jeni Menendez and Matt Flanders from Eversource,** presented the Eversource application for a *Conditional Use Permit* (CUP) for its Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project, for member review. Additionally, Eversource has applied for an NHDES *Statutory Permit by Notification for Utility Maintenance*. Lines affected are the 391, 385 and 373 transmission lines. The lines...*are all located within an existing 270-foot wide right-of-way. ...the proposed work area begins just south of Brown Rd and continues approximately 4 miles to the Deerfield and Northwood town line.*

**Scope of Work:** A total of 37 poles will be replaced; 19 on the 391 line, 10 on the 385 line and 8 on the 373 line. Poles being replaced suffer from environmental damage or require general maintenance. Pole condition is rated from A to D. In addition to the “D” rated poles being replaced, **Eversource also intends to replace poles not immediately scheduled for replacement in order to minimize wetland impacts**, i.e. wetlands would be affected by a single impact as opposed to multiple impacts over time. The project will necessitate temporary impacts to a total combined area of 115,625 sf (2.65 Ac). **50-year old wooden poles will be replaced with steel structures.** According to information provided by GZA, *the majority of utility structures will be approximately 5-10 feet higher than the existing utility structures due to updated National Electrical Safety Code requirements for line clearance* Temporary wetland crossings will be protected with timber mats and straw wattles. **Restoration will consist of the mats being removed and affected areas being stabilized, mulched and seeded.**

**Best Management Practices will be employed.** Crews will be trained to identify Black Racers, Blanding’s and Spotted Turtles, and will be instructed to inform GZA if they are encountered. **Members expressed concern that target dates for the project are March 15<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> and asked why the work was not being performed while the ground was frozen.** Representatives noted that given the number of projects involving wetlands around the state, and the need to coordinate power outages and contractor availability, **not every project can be scheduled during the winter months.** Vegetation is not permanently harmed by the timber mats; springing back and being renewed within a growing season when the mats are removed. Work is not being performed in rivers and streams so there is no impact to fish, and turtle sweeps can detect their movement over the mats. Eversource met with DES prior to submitting its Wetland application and will be following BMP’s and employing methods approved by DES. Erick Berglund may contact NHDES representative Stefanie Giallongo the Portsmouth office for further discussion. **Eversource representatives confirmed that none of the work being performed was connected with the Hydro-Quebec/Central Maine Power Transmission Line project.**

**Stewardship/Easement Monitoring:** Erick Berglund will review the Willoughby 2019 monitoring report. The report notes that the owner is seeking forest management options and that a written management plan is a requirement of the CE.

**Approval of Minutes:** Lacking a quorum, approval of the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes was **tabled until February.**

**Finance:** Erick Berglund reported that as of **December 31<sup>st</sup>,** the bank statement showed an *unofficial* balance in the Conservation Fund of **\$184,325.19** reflecting **interest in the amount of \$39.13** and a **refund back to the operating budget of \$674.09 for legal fees which should have been paid from the conservation fund.** *Official* reports for August, September, October, November and December are still pending. A January deposit of **\$9,190 representing CC’s 50% share of Land Use Change Tax for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019** is anticipated.

Mr. Berglund also reported that **DCC’s final 2020 budget has been approved.** The 2019 expenditure report was sent out to members for review.

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**Easements and Land Protection:** The BOS recently inquired about DCC's interest in a list of parcels that are proposed for auction in the Spring of 2020. **Members reviewed Town maps of the parcels for their potential conservation value which is based on criteria contained in the Deerfield Open Space Plan (DOSP) and the NH Wildlife Action Plan.** In part they include a parcel's location within the green infrastructure, its proximity to and contribution to the protection of wetlands, streams, lakes and wildlife habitats (including wildlife corridors) and its role in connecting large, unfragmented ecologically important areas. **Additional criteria considered from the DOSP include:**

- Potential linkages to existing open space,
- The environmental sensitivity and importance of the parcel,
- The existing threat of continued development,
- Outdoor recreation potential,
- Cost and availability of the parcel including the financial impact of removing the parcel from development (cost of residential services vs. open space costs and benefits)
- The aesthetic benefits to the general public and preservation of the Town character.

**DCC was asked to respond with any interest** it may have in acquiring any of the listed parcels by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Project Updates:** Katrina Amaral, Executive Director of Bear-Paw provided DCC with copies of the latest drafts of both the Bear-Paw easement and LCHIP executory interest deeds. Copies were also submitted to LCHIP for their review. Ms. Amaral indicated that the baseline documentation should be complete in the next few weeks. **Members will review the 128-acre Pendleton CE deed (Deerfield to Bear-Paw) and the Warranty deed (Executory Interest – Deerfield to LCHIP) which are intentionally more restrictive than the original LCIP easement on the parcel.** Bear-Paw attorneys have reviewed the drafts and the comments from Attorney Raymond, which Ms. Amaral indicated were more related to intent than to the document language.

Erick Berglund asked which version was last reviewed by the DCC and what edits were made from that draft to this current version. Mr. Berglund was also interested in knowing what comments were made by the Town's attorney. Final DCC approval is pending its final review and approval by the Town's attorney.

**Regulated Wetlands & Shorelands – Permits/Applications:** Members were informed of the following permits:

- **NHDES – Shoreland Impact Permit #2019-03588 – Magan M. Munson-3 Ridgeview Ln. - Map 207 Lot 4**  
Impact 6,070 Sq. Ft of protected shoreland – Replace non-conforming with more nearly conforming primary structure with storm water management, add detached garage, reconfigure driveway and new septic system
- **Confirmation of Complete Forestry Notification – NHDES File #2019-03605**  
State of NH – NH DNCR – Bear Brook State Park (South Rd) Map 413 Lot 59 (Forester=AR Ames Forestry)

### **Announcements/Correspondence/Reminders:**

Wes Golomb reported that **a meeting of the reconstituted Deerfield Energy Committee is scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.** Two recent articles in the FORUM were the first in a series Mr. Golomb plans to submit. The goal of the committee is "...*finding economically beneficial energy projects that lower taxes, energy consumption and GHG emissions and help get us to the 2030 Net-Zero goal in our Master Plan*". A number of residents have already indicated a willingness to be involved, and interested parties can reach Mr. Golomb at [wgolomb@gmail.com](mailto:wgolomb@gmail.com).

**Bear-Paw Regional Greenways annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Hooksett Public Library.** Registration begins at 8:30 am followed by a meeting and presentation from 9 till noon. A guided walk is scheduled from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. **Sandra Houghton, a wildlife biologist with NH Fish & Game, will discuss what is causing bat population decline.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

**The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 10, 2020**

*(Please check the website for scheduling changes)*

[townofdeerfieldnh.com](http://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 Commission*