

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – **February 10, 2020**

Members Present: Haley Andreozzi, Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb
Members Absent: Brian Adams
Visitors & Guests: Jude Dallaire, Frank Mitchell

Chair Serita Frey called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Scout Leader Jude Dallaire approached members of the DCC on behalf of the 11 Cub Scouts in Pack 138 who have offered to **construct a replacement for the sign at the Dowst-Cate Town Forest trail head as a community service project**. Mr. Dallaire explained that presenting the sign to the Community would not only benefit the Town, but would provide a “feel good” moment for the scouts. Mr. Dallaire noted that although their charter limits certain activities, parents would be able to assist the scouts if the use of prohibited tools or chemicals is required. **Mr. Dallaire asked about specifications** and if they would need pressure-treated lumber and if the sign was to be mounted on posts set in concrete footings or crushed stone. The Freese Town Forest sign is being used as an example. **Wes Golomb will make some inquiries about the type of protective finish needed.** The design/inscription on the sign is pending research for the original sign.

Easements and Land Protection: The BOS recently inquired about DCC’s interest in a list of tax-deeded parcels that are proposed for auction in the Spring of 2020. **Members previously reviewed Town maps of three parcels on Reservation Rd. for their potential conservation value which was based on criteria contained in the Deerfield Open Space Plan (DOSP) and the NH Wildlife Action Plan.** In part these attributes included their location within the green infrastructure, their proximity to and contribution to the protection of wetlands, streams, lakes and wildlife habitats (including wildlife corridors) and their role in connecting large, unfragmented ecologically important areas.

Additional criteria considered from the DOSP included:

- Potential linkages to existing open space,
- The environmental sensitivity and importance of the parcels,
- The existing threat of continued development,
- Outdoor recreation potential,
- Cost and availability of the parcels including the financial impact of removing the parcels 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.

In addition to the above, Frank Mitchell noted both the presence of **wetlands, and of two streams that cross the parcels and feed the Lamprey River**. Of significant interest is that one of the parcels is **within 1500 feet of the Town’s largest aquifer**, the two larger parcels are **situated within the *Highest Ranked Habitat in the Biological Region*** and the smaller parcel is considered to be in the ***Highest Ranked Habitat Statewide***. Their proximity to property on Raymond Rd. that is being considered for conservation is of particular interest since **the combined acreage of these contiguous parcels could exceed ~350 acres**.

Members questioned how the process (which is regulated by NH RSA’s) would work, both procedurally and financially. DCC will follow-up with John Harrington for clarification. Two previous examples of the Town retaining properties for their conservation value after tax-deeding (rather than selling them at auction) are the Wells Lot and the (Arthur) Chase Lot which have since been permanently protected. Members agreed that the parcels have high conservation value.

Wes Golomb moved for DCC to **“Request that the Town retain the Reservation Rd. properties, Tax Map 418-25, 418-26 and 418-62, for conservation purposes”**. A second by Erick Berglund was followed by unanimous approval of the members present.

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Stewardship/Easement Monitoring:

Erick Berglund reviewed the Willoughby 2019 monitoring report that indicated the owner was seeking forest management options. According to Frank Mitchell, the owner's questions are being addressed by Bear-Paw.

Members were updated on the status of the Brown's Mill Corey Wildlife Open Space Subdivision. Still to be determined is whether the \$2,500.00 bond was ever posted for hydroseeding, which was to have been done as a part of the reclamation of the gravel pit. It is felt that the completion of the reclamation is a worthwhile project and that the Planning Board should be contacted to update them on the status of the project.

Wetland Zoning Ordinance: An article explaining the proposed wetland zoning amendment is being submitted for publication in the Deerfield Voters' Guide anticipated for February distribution. Haley Andreozzi will send members the final version of the text and request its publication in the FORUM by February 28th in order to inform voters prior to March 10th voting.

Approval of Minutes: Lacking a quorum at the January meeting, Serita Frey moved to approve the minutes of the December 8th meeting. The motion was seconded by Haley Andreozzi and passed unanimously. There was no vote to approve the minutes of the January meeting since a quorum was not present at that meeting.

Finance: Erick Berglund confirmed the Official Conservation Fund balances for August (\$168,326.96), September (\$184,362.97) and October (\$184,922.15) have been received. The Official November balance of \$184,960.15 includes interest of \$38.00. The Official December balance of \$184,325.19 reflects interest of \$39.13 and a transfer of \$674.00 back to the operating budget for legal fees which should have been paid from the Conservation Fund. The Unofficial bank statement balance for January is \$194,590.90 which includes a deposit \$9,190.00 representing DCC's 50% share of Land Use Change Tax for 4th Quarter 2019 and \$1,036.06 reflecting a transfer of DCC's 2019 budget surplus to the Conservation Fund.

Project Updates: In her 2/4/2020 email Katrina Amaral, Executive Director of Bear-Paw provided DCC with copies of "the draft conservation easement and LCHIP right of enforcement deeds" (*Deerfield Pendleton Easement 20200204*) (*20200204 Deerfield Pendleton Grant of Conservation Restrictions to LCHIP*) along with a Draft of the full Baseline Documentation. The deeds did not appear to be in their final version, still containing prior edits and comments. Serita Frey forwarded the above email to members who were asked to review the documents and to be prepared to approve the deeds at DCC's March 9th meeting. The final version of the deeds will be forwarded to Attorney Raymond for final review.

Wes Golomb reported that there had been an organizational meeting of the newly reinstituted Deerfield Energy Committee. Mr. Golomb and four other attendees reviewed the improved statistics at the GBW building for 2019 which showed lower electricity consumption after the completion of the lighting upgrade, and a dip in oil consumption. A list of priorities for the Committee is being developed and plans are being made for a renewable energy workshop funded by the utilities called "Button Up" which will be the kickoff event for the Energy Committee. Mr. Golomb would like to involve members of the School Board since future plans for improvements to DCS include rooftop solar. An upgrade to the lighting at DCS appears to have had a similar return to that of the GBW lighting upgrade.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2020

(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