

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2020

Roll Call Attendance: Brian Adams, Haley Andreozzi, Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb

Members Absent: None

Visitors & Guests: Katrina Amaral, Executive Director – Bear-Paw Regional Greenways

Pursuant to Governor Sununu's *Emergency Order #12*, the Deerfield Conservation Commission met electronically and did not provide a physical location for the public to attend. In order to provide access to the public, a conference phone line and meeting ID number were established and posted in the official Meeting Notice.

PHONE NUMBER: 312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 634 101 4902

Chair Serita Frey opened the regular meeting, at 8:05 pm.

Per Katrina Amaral, all the documents have been reviewed by Bear-Paw attorneys and submitted to LCHIP. The current versions of the Draft easement deed, *Deerfield Pendleton Easement 20200413* (containing comments by Paul McDonald, attorney for Bear-Paw) and of the *20200413 Deerfield Pendleton Grant of Conservation Restrictions to LCHIP*, were sent to the members just prior to the meeting. Erick Berglund proposed the following edits:

Add Bullet Point: Page 3 – Section 2 C – Management Plan:

- Any and all recreational trails shall be identified in the Management Plan

Add Bullet Point: Page 3 – Section 2 C – Management Plan:

- All commercial agricultural activities shall be described in detail in the Management Plan

The arbitration clause has been removed per members' recommendations in March. Ms. Amaral provided alternate sample language for the *Extinguishment* clause that could be used, but was declined by the members as being unnecessarily lengthy. The final percentages in the event of extinguishment will be calculated by LCHIP prior to the execution of the deed.

Serita Frey moved: *To Accept the language contained in the Deerfield Pendleton Easement, version 20200413, which will be updated and include the recommended edits.* The motion was seconded by Haley Andreozzi, with Erick Berglund, Wes Golomb, Brian Adams, Serita Frey and Haley Andreozzi voting in favor of the motion.

The LCHIP deed is between the Town and LCHIP and now acknowledges the easement held by Bear-Paw.

Erick Berglund moved: *To Accept the 20200413 version of the Deerfield Pendleton Grant of Conservation Restrictions to LCHIP.* The motion was seconded by Serita Frey with Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Haley Andreozzi and Brian Adams voting in favor of the motion.

An additional document entitled the *NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program Notice of Grant Agreement, affirming the Town's intent to comply with the terms of the grant*, needs to be signed by a representative of the Town. Ms. Amaral explained in a previous email that *...the easement was going to be transferred from Gile (Beye) to Bear-Paw and then the title was going to be transferred to the Town (with easement restrictions already in place), bypassing the need for this grant agreement. But since the title was transferred to the Town first, this agreement is necessary.* Serita Frey will arrange to have the document signed. Erick Berglund suggested exploring the need for attorney review.

Since LCHIP funding is contingent on access by the public, which typically includes hunting, Ms. Amaral will follow up with LCHIP on whether the Town can post against hunting. Serita Frey will contact Gile Beye to determine what Ms. Beye would like the property to be officially named.

Organizational Meeting of the Commission: Nomination of Officers for 2020 - 2021:

Serita Frey moved: *To retain the current slate of officers (Serita Frey, Chair and Erick Berglund, Treasurer) beginning May 1, 2020 and ending April 30, 2021.* The motion was seconded by Wes Golomb with Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Haley Andreozzi and Brian Adams voting in favor of the motion.

Approval of Minutes: **Serita Frey moved:** *To approve the minutes of the March 9th meeting.* The motion was seconded by Erick Berglund with Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Haley Andreozzi and Brian Adams voting in favor of the motion.

Finance: Erick Berglund reported that at the end of February the balance in the Conservation Fund was \$194,629.45 which included interest in the amount of \$38.55. At the end of March, the balance was \$194,670.66 including interest of \$41.21. It is estimated that DCC's 50% portion of Land Use Change Tax for 1st Quarter 2020 will be \$25,500.

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Erick Berglund moved: *To approve an invoice for \$400 to reimburse Chris Carr for four Turtle Crossing signs and posts.* The motion was seconded by Serita Frey with Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Haley Andreozzi and Brian Adams voting in favor of the motion.

Erick Berglund moved: *To approve payment of \$387.09 to Town attorneys Upton and Hatfield for legal services provided on March 4th and March 5th.* Although Chair Frey recalled requesting information from Attorney Raymond, she could not immediately recall receiving his response. **Serita Frey moved:** *To approve the invoice pending confirmation of the charges.* The motion was seconded by Wes Golomb with Erick Berglund, Brian Adams, Wes Golomb, Haley Andreozzi and Serita Frey voting in favor of the motion.

Dowst-Cate Sign: Serita Frey contacted Scout Leader Jude Dallaire about the replacement for the sign at the Dowst-Cate Town Forest trail head and acknowledged that DCC assumes work on the sign is currently on hold, given the health emergency.

Erick Berglund shared information from his research about Gilbert Knowles, the donor of the property, which has the distinction of being Deerfield's first Town Forest. Mr. Berglund spoke with resident Jack Sherburne, who was instrumental in bringing about the transaction that resulted in the donation of the land. Mr. Berglund learned that Mr. Knowles at one time owned of a store in Epsom that had been an informal meeting spot for folks in the area. A large, communal wheel of "rat cheese" on the counter may have contributed to its popularity!

Stewardship/Easement Monitoring: DCC clerk, Judy Marshall reported that she **will submit a memo to the Planning Board at a later date to update them on the status of the Brown's Mill Corey Wildlife Open Space Subdivision project.** Hydroseeding was to have been completed as part of the reclamation of the gravel pit and was a condition of approval. No information was available to confirm that a \$2,500.00 bond was ever posted for the hydroseeding or that it had ever been completed. It is unclear what recourse the Town may have. DCC is responsible for overseeing resident monitoring.

Easements and Land Protection: DCC recently expressed its opinion to the BOS that the tax-deeded parcels off Reservation Rd. slated for auction this year should be retained by the Town for their conservation value. After requesting information on the process for conserving the parcels, DCC was advised they would need to **participate in the planned auction and bid on the land along with any other interested party.** It was noted that the auction is on hold, giving DCC time to work on finances, or to contemplate a warrant article in 2021 to retain the parcels.

Turtle Crossing Signs: May 1st is the recommended date for posting the signs. Haley Andreozzi has been unsuccessful in obtaining requested guidance from NH Fish & Game but has been promised location maps. A request to have the Highway Department erect the signs will be made. Wes Golomb volunteered his services to assist with the project.

Bear Brook Steering Committee: The next Committee meeting is scheduled for May.

Deerfield Energy Committee: The "button up" workshop for residents will be rescheduled for fall. The committee will meet via Zoom in two weeks.

Regulated Wetlands & Shorelands – Permits/Applications:

DCC was notified that the owner of Map 204 Lot 35 was in the process of filling in 3500 sq. ft. of wet area. Research using the *Wetlands Permit Planning Tool* did not reveal the existence of an NHDES wetland permit. Erick Berglund will make a site visit to the property. It was recommended that the party who notified DCC file a complaint with the NHDES who could then assess the impact. Serita Frey will respond to the email with DCC's recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2020

(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 Commission