

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2020

**Roll Call Attendance:** Haley Andreozzi, Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Brian Adams  
**Members Absent:** None  
**Visitors & Guests:** Joseph Chase, Phil Bilodeau, Frank Mitchell (via phone or Zoom link)

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 7:02 pm.

**Forestry:**

DCC received notification from NH Tree Farm Program (American Tree Farm Systems) that Deerfield's Town Forest Land is due for their 6-year reinspection. Town Forester, Charlie Moreno was also noticed by them. A 2017 notice indicated Deerfield is listed in the ATSF database as having 325 forested acres. Mr. Moreno can verify the size and location of the listed parcels.

Phil Bilodeau, who was formerly on the Forestry Commission, informed DCC that he is once again interested in contributing his time to the Forestry Commission. Mr. Bilodeau intends to contact Alan Perkins, who is believed to be the sole member still serving, to determine the commission's current status, and possibly reinvigorate the commission. Mr. Bilodeau will be happy to work with Charlie Moreno going forward.

Mr. Bilodeau believes there is approximately \$29,000 currently in the Forestry Fund. The revenue in the fund was generated from timber harvests and is to be used solely for the purpose of maintaining the Town Forests. The funds can also be used to create and update management plans for the parcels. Erick Berglund suggested that Mr. Bilodeau think about 2021 budgeting for anything the Forestry Commission may need that is not permitted to be paid for from forestry funds.

DCC has not had a recent update on the status of the Town Forest management plans and wonders if there were any pending contracts with Charlie Moreno. Plans have been received and are posted on the DCC website for Wells, Arthur Chase, Dowst-Cate/Weiss, Freese and McNeil. It is believed that there is no plan or pending contract for Boisvert and the status of Lindsay-Flanders (for which there was a 2013 contract) and Hart are unknown. Gile Beye passed on a hard copy of the management plan for Marston to the DCC, also prepared by Mr. Moreno. Mr. Moreno will be asked to update DCC on the status of the management plans.

**Stewardship/Easement Monitoring:**

**Boisvert Town Forest:** A Mr. Joseph Chase communicated with Epsom resident Paul Ankiewicz whose recent emails informed DCC that the Town of Epsom has posted no trespassing signs on Dow Rd in Deerfield, believing that the road was in Epsom, crossing a parcel presumed by Epsom to be owned by the Town of Epsom. The parcel in question is Deerfield Map 404-3 owned by the Eames Revocable Family Trust of 2020. The Town of Epsom believes the parcel is Epsom Map R3-41-1 claimed to be owned by the Town of Epsom. Dow Rd traverses the Eames parcel, providing access to the Boisvert (404-2) and Wells (411-39) Town Forests, the abutting State-owned Corey Wildlife Management Area (404-4) and indirectly to the Hart Town Forest (403-2) beyond. Subsequent emails from Joseph Chase and Thomas Herling voiced similar concerns. Mr. Chase noted that based on his research, the Town of Deerfield maintained Dow Rd until 1932 when the Town voted to stop maintaining it.

In 2011, the Selectpersons of the Towns of Epsom and Deerfield walked the Town Line, as is mandated by RSA, and agreed on the boundary which is documented in the 2011 Perambulation Report and by an aerial map of the line. The perambulation documents show that both the Eames lot and Dow Rd are in Deerfield. A number of years ago, Deerfield Assessing unsuccessfully requested that Epsom Assessing correct its Town maps to reflect the perambulation, but the discrepancy persists.

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**Serita Frey and Frank Mitchell will compose a memo to the Deerfield BOS outlining the situation and ask that they work with the Epsom Board to resolve the discrepancy; not only to reopen access to Boisvert but also to resolve the ownership of the Eames parcel.**

**Lindsay-Flanders:** DCC was notified in July that there is **evidence of 4-wheeling taking place on the trails** at Lindsay-Flanders. Erick Berglund reported that based on a recent site visit, there are no informational signs identifying the conserved area and the signs posted in 2017 prohibiting motorized vehicles are no longer present. There is evidence of old campfires, but no sign of breached stone walls, although they may have been removed. Mr. Berglund reported seeing “scuffing” on the trails, possibly from ATV traffic. The trails become wide enough to accommodate both ATV’s and snowmobiles and **a resident reported to Mr. Berglund that there was clear evidence of ATV activity in April** when the trails were still muddy.

Mr. Berglund followed what appeared to be the **2017 loop trail extension created by Alan Perkins, Deb Campelia and Frank Mitchell**, which along with the main trail, appears to have been recently re-blazed. Mr. Berglund will contact Alan Perkins and Frank Mitchell regarding his findings and report back to the members in September.

**Corey Wildlife Open Space Subdivision (Browns Mill CE) Map 411 Lot 45-13:**

Jim Oehler from NH Fish & Game confirmed in his 8/4 email that Frank Mitchell’s suggestion to **mow every other year in the fall will work fine to maintain the area**. Brian Adams has volunteered to use his brush cutter for the job and will contact Kate Hartnett to determine the specific area to be mowed.

**145 South Rd - Map 420 Lot 57:** On July 29<sup>th</sup> DCC sent a letter to NHDES requesting an investigation of a potential wetland violation. As of this date, DCC has not received a response.

**13 Gulf Rd - Map 204 Lot 35 – NHDES File# 2019-03485:** DCC was copied on a letter from NHDES to the landowner in response to a complaint of a wetland violation. *NHDES has determined there are no violations of RSA 482-A or RSA 483-B on the property and will exercise no jurisdiction in the matter.*

**Regulated Wetlands & Shorelands – Permits/Applications:**

Mark West of West Environmental presented an application for an *Expedited Minimum Impact Wetlands Permit* on behalf of **Mullikin & Sons Homes, LLC for property located at 85 Candia Rd. Map 419 Lot 80-5**, to *construct a new driveway that crosses an intermittent stream to access a single-family house*. Mr. West explained that the existing driveway is a shared driveway. The plan would remove a portion connecting the shared driveways, resulting in a separate driveway to service the home. **The project will impact 606 square feet of wetland**, will be located at the narrowest portion of the streams (2.5 ft wide, bank to bank with a 12-acre watershed), and will be distanced from a vernal pool located on the far end of the property. In the event that NHDES requires any changes or makes any recommendations, Mr. West will submit a copy of the revised plan to DCC. **There were no objections to having Chair Frey sign the application, waiving the Commission’s right to intervene, and allowing for NHDES to process the application in the expedited time frame.**

**Town Forests and Conservation Areas – Permitted Use Matrix:**

Members continued their discussion from July of whether to include horseback riding as an allowed use on Town Forests and Conservation Areas. **Research into practices of surrounding towns found that allowing horses on trails designed for foot traffic conflicts with other trail users and serves to degrade existing trails.** Wooden foot bridges, not constructed for equestrian traffic, result in horses going around the bridges and into the wetlands. **Citing that there are other opportunities available for the activity, members agreed that based on the current nature of Deerfield’s trails, horseback riding should not be an allowed use at this time.** If in the future additional resources for alteration of existing trails become available, the topic can be revisited.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Serita Frey moved: To approve the minutes of the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.** The motion was seconded by Erick Berglund. Serita Frey, Erick Berglund, Brian Adams, Haley Andreozzi and Wes Golomb voted to accept the minutes as written.

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**Finance:**

Erick Berglund reported that the **official balance in the conservation fund as of July 31<sup>st</sup> was \$220,350.71** including interest of \$46.65. The two previously approved Upton and Hatfield payments of \$387.09 and \$345.00 will be reflected in the August balance as will the 50% portion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2020 Land Use Change Tax of \$25,232.66.

**FY 2021 Budget:**

Members were asked for feedback on the line items in the proposed DCC budget for FY 2021 which Mr. Berglund will submit to the BOS this week. It was agreed that **preliminarily, the budget could remain the same as 2020 with the exception of an increase in the amount for Part Time Secretary, based on an hourly pay raise last year.** Members should also give some thought to any special expenditures that would require a warrant article. This is not intended for expenditures appropriately paid from the conservation fund. The topic will be on the September agenda.

**Membership:**

**There are currently two open membership positions on the Conservation Commission.** Haley Andreozzi was informed that a member on the Kingston Conservation Commission has moved to Deerfield and could be a potential candidate to fill one of the DCC vacancies. Unfortunately, it would be awkward to reach out to them now under the current Covid-19 restrictions under which DCC is operating. **DCC can revisit the idea in the spring.**

**Easements and Land Protection:**

**Bear-Paw (Mathes) North Rd:** At DCC's July meeting, members discussed the options available to remedy Bear-Paw having both fee ownership and holding the conservation easement on the North Rd. parcel, on which the Town holds an executory interest. **Serita Frey informed Katrina Amaral of Bear-Paw that DCC recommends that Bear-Paw should convey an easement to another land trust on the now Bear-Paw-owned parcel.**

**Marston Family Town Forest: 128 Acre Parcel:** DCC received a copy of documentation dated July 22, 2020, confirming that LCHIP has amended its *Project Agreement between LCHIP and Bear-Paw by revising the Grant Expiration Date from June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2021* with no other changes to the agreement. Language for a 2021 warrant article to simultaneously **convey Town Forest status (RSA 31:111) on the Town-owned parcel and to convey both the Conservation Easement Deed to Bear-Paw and a Warranty Deed Conveying Conservation Restrictions and Right of Enforcement to LCHIP** should be completed prior to the end of the year. Town approval to convey the easements is required in order for the Town to be reimbursed for \$50,000 in project costs. The conserved area will be known as the *Marston Family Town Forest*.

**A motion to adjourn at 8:17 pm** by Erick Berglund was seconded by Serita Frey with Haley Andreozzi, Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb and Brian Adams voting in favor of the motion.

**The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 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*