

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2021

Roll Call Attendance:

Haley Andreozzi, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb

Members Absent:

Brian Adams

Visitors & Guests:

Lindsey White (GZA), Ashley Ruprecht (Eversource), Katrina Amaral (Bear-Paw),
Jo Anne Bradbury, Josh Freed, Denise Greig, Chloe Gross, Erroll Rhodes

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

Serita Frey opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Eversource Conditional Use Permit Application:

Representatives from Eversource and GZA GeoEnvironmental met with members of the DCC to address anticipated temporary impacts to the wetlands located within the G146 transmission line right-of-way (ROW).

Eversource has applied for a wetland permit from DES for utility work and will be appearing before the Planning Board on Wednesday May 12th to obtain a Conditional Use Permit. The G146 transmission line runs 18 miles from Bow to the Deerfield substation. In total, five poles will be replaced on the G146 line; however, the scope of the project in Deerfield is to replace only one deteriorated pole, structure #65, with a taller, weathered steel, 3-pole structure, similar in style to the one it is replacing. The anticipated start date is August 2021 with some pre-project activity in July.

The structure is located 0.75 miles west/southwesterly from Thurston Pond Rd. (private/discontinued), the proposed access point to the ROW. Jo Anne Bradbury, whose land is crossed by the ROW, and accessed via Thurston Pond Rd., expressed serious **concerns about the ability of the small bridge on Thurston Pond Rd. to accommodate the equipment and materials required for the work.** Ms. Bradbury also asked if abutters will be notified prior to the commencement of construction. Eversource will request that its outreach person communicate that information to Ms. Bradbury at that time. Wes Golomb questioned if the height of the pole was being increased in anticipation of a future, heavier load being carried on the line, to which Ms. White responded that **the 13.5-foot increase in pole height was to comply with new National Electrical Safety standards.**

Several vernal pools were delineated on the plan, and although Eversource intends to skirt the pools themselves, the intention is to make permanent deposits of gravel and stone over the soils in the areas upland from the vernal pools to allow for future maintenance. Member Haley Andreozzi noted that doing so would render the pools functionally useless, in that amphibians inhabit the pools during breeding season, after which they retreat to the upland areas where they spend the remainder of the year. Ms. Bradbury pointed out that rutting caused by ATV, or similar traffic did not enhance the vernal pools as was suggested during the conversation, and referenced *Good Forestry in the Granite State* as the source of her information, adding that although ruts may temporarily retain water, they dry out prior to the amphibians leaving them. **Ms. White will speak with construction crews about the use of gravel and stone in the proximity of the vernal pools;** however, it is not standard practice.

As in the past, **Eversource will be using timber matting and erosion controls to prevent rutting and compaction, and GZA will perform weekly, on-site monitoring.** Restoration of disturbed wetland areas will consist of reseeding where mats were used, and mulching. According to the plan, *Upland access routes and work pads will be improved using gravel and stone as necessary to provide safe access and work areas for utility pole replacements.* The progress of the restorations will also be monitored.

DCC will draft an email to the Planning Board addressing the proposed methodology for handling the vernal pools, requesting that the 100-foot wetland buffer be maintained, and that consideration be given to potential damage to the small bridge on Thurston Pond Rd. DCC and the public will have an opportunity to communicate their concerns to the Planning Board at its May 12th meeting.

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Easements & Land Protection:

Project #39 – Mountain Rd/Nottingham Rd:

Katrina Amaral will provide the maps and budget for this ~20-acre project (a six-house subdivision had previously been considered for this property). **The owner wishes to donate the value of the land to be placed into a conservation easement.** The parcel is located within an existing unfragmented block of privately-conserved land, and there is potential for acquiring 10 to 15 additional acres that could be absorbed into the easement in the future. The land is forested with wetlands and a perennial stream, sloping down to the Lamprey River. **Additional due-diligence on the part of the commission is needed before any decision can be made** and members can weigh the attributes of the potential acquisition using Bear-Paw's *Conservation Project Checklist* next month and review the maps in the *Wildlife Action Plan*, which is part of the *Deerfield Open Space Plan*. Ms. Amaral estimates the **transaction costs to be approximately \$13,000 less a possible transaction grant of \$7,100 from Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership.**

Serita Frey reiterated DCC's desire for early involvement in these projects. Ms. Amaral reassured Ms. Frey that the timeline was not critical. **Ms. Amaral offered to facilitate a site visit.** An exclusion area for the dwelling and curtilage was yet to be determined.

Trails: Bear-Paw has been addressing its lack of visibility in the absence of kiosks and signage on its easements. Their Stewardship Coordinator, **Rue Teel, is developing a standardized design for the proposed structures and asked for recommendations for the easement properties in Deerfield.** Ms. Teel will be replacing the destroyed sign at Burbank Woods which could serve as a prototype for future signage. Burbank Woods is one of the parcels that comprise the Great Brook Trail, for which Ms. Teel has suggested constructing a kiosk with information about the trail. Ideally, the structure would accommodate a full trail map with background information as well as additional space for notifications; possibly two 8.5 x 11-inch sheets. DCC members can either propose their own design or defer to Bear-Paw's scheme.

Marston Warrant Article #9:

Chair Frey reported that Warrant Article #9 survived the May 1st Deliberative Session intact and explained that the **passage of the warrant article is the final piece to convey Town Forest status and update the conservation easement on this donated parcel.** Passage will ensure the Town will be reimbursed \$50,000 contributed to the project. Passage on Voting Day, Tuesday, June 8th is the final hurdle for completion of this five-year undertaking. Haley Andreozzi will forward the DCC's outreach information on the warrant article to Katrina Amaral who has offered to send out an e-blast from Bear-Paw recommending a vote in favor of the article. Ms. Amaral will drop off the baseline documentation at the Town offices in preparation for the anticipated June 21st BOS signing.

Membership: Nominees for the three openings on the commission gave brief statements about themselves.

Josh Freed: Josh Freed has lived in Deerfield since 1994 and has served on the Deerfield Zoning Board since 1998, acting as Chair of the ZBA for a significant part of that time. Mr. Freed has decided to move on from that position and apply his knowledge of trail maintenance and experience in trail building as a member of the DCC. Mr. Freed is certified by the State park system to perform chainsaw work and trail maintenance. Mr. Freed feels it is important to get folks out into the woods to experience nature.

Chloe Gross: Chloe Gross is a Freshman at UNH studying Environmental Conservation and Sustainability, and admits to having always been an environmentalist. Although Ms. Gross views her membership as a learning experience, she recognizes the contribution her youth can make; bringing a different perspective to the commission, and, as Serita Frey pointed out, becoming a conduit for other young people getting involved. Ms. Gross is also interested in trail work.

Erroll Rhodes: Mr. Rhodes understands the importance of growing the footprint of conserved properties in Town. He is eager to contribute his experience serving for the past two years on the Heritage Commission, working to preserve Deerfield's historic properties, 13 of which are on the National Register of Historic Properties. Mr. Rhodes' conservation efforts are not limited to the historic, having protected much of his own land and adding previously conserved property to his inventory of preserved parcels; managing them *...following the precepts learned in the Coverts program.* These properties will provide additional opportunities to add to Deerfield's system of walking trails. Mr. Rhodes also keeps an ear on what's going on in Town by attending many of the Board and Committee meetings.

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Jo Anne Bradbury: Ms. Bradbury was inspired to throw her hat into the ring of nominees Monday night as an alternate member. Ms. Bradbury has had a life-long interest in conservation, and since the purchase of her first parcel on Thurston Pond Rd. in 1984, she has added three others totaling 133 acres. She not only manages her own land, encouraging the public use of the system of marked trails she has established, but also contributes her time maintaining the trails on the neighboring Arthur Chase Town Forest. Ms. Bradbury admits *Good Forestry in the Granite State* is her favorite “read”.

Serita Frey explained that expectations of members are to attend monthly meetings as much as possible and to volunteer to move things along by spreading the work load of the commission. The DCC is currently taking steps to increase its community presence and public outreach. These appointments will not only effectively double the present size of the commission, but each nominee will also bring something unique to the table

Motion: *Serita Frey moved to accept Chloe Gross, Josh Freed and Erroll Rhodes for one-, two- and three-year terms respectively, and to accept Jo Anne Bradbury as an alternate. Wes Golomb seconded the motion. Haley Andreozzi, Serita Frey and Wes Golomb voted in favor of the motion.*

Stewardship:

Lindsay-Flanders Conservation Area:

Installation of game cameras and signage is still pending

Geddes Property - 409-60 and 61, 415-49, 50 and 51 (Adams Hill and Nottingham Rds.)

No Update regarding the reported excavation activity on the parcel.

Organizational Business: Nomination of Officers for 2021 – 2022

Motion: *Wes Golomb moved to nominate Serita Frey as Chair and Haley Andreozzi as Finance Officer for the term beginning May 1, 2021 and ending April 30, 2022. The motion was seconded by Serita Frey. Haley Andreozzi, Serita Frey and Wes Golomb voted in favor of the motion.*

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: *Serita Frey moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Wes Golomb. Haley Andreozzi, Serita Frey and Wes Golomb voted to accept the minutes as written.*

Finance:

Haley Andreozzi reported the **statement balance in the conservation fund at the end of April was \$267,697.73** including interest of \$32.66 and \$14,150 representing the 50% portion of Land Use Change Tax being directed to the Conservation Fund for First Quarter 2021. Ms. Andreozzi began working under the direction of former Finance Director Erick Berglund in anticipation of his retirement from the commission on April 30th.

Planning & Zoning:

McCarron Rd. – Map 413 Lot 7

At the 4/28/2021 Planning Board Meeting, a question was raised pertaining to a notation on the most recent subdivision plan referencing a conservation easement on lots 7.9 and 7.10 on a 3/31/2006 revision of the plan. Former DCC and Planning Board member Kate Hartnett was consulted, and replied that from her recollection, DCC had no interest in accepting an easement at the time since the parcel being offered was a substandard piece of land having no ecological value. Ms. Hartnett also thought that the Rockingham County Conservation District may have accepted the easement. Haley Andreozzi did not locate a conserved parcel on NH GRANIT in the vicinity of the project area, and the DCC clerk could find no record of a conveyance from McCarron Perron to the Town recorded by the Rockingham County Recorder of Deeds. It was reported that at the 4/28 meeting, Planning Board Secretary Jane Boucher instructed the current developer to contact DCC regarding the potential easement. DCC has not heard from the developer to date. **DCC was notified of a 4/26/2021 Amended Restoration Plan Approval from NH DES.**

Edward and Sandra Cross – Range and Ridge Roads – Map 414 Lots 71 and 72

No Update

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Moschella – 115 Nottingham Rd – Map 416 Lot 69

The ZBA declined to hear an appeal of its 2/23/21 denial of a variance to construct a barn within 51 feet of a wetland. It was felt that the petitioner had no grounds for appeal.

Regulated Wetlands & Shorelands – Permits/Applications/Potential Violations:

DCC Review #2020-02

DES-Land Resources Management - NHDES Permitting File #2021-00266 - NHDES Compliance File #2020-02413
145 South Rd – Map 420 Lots 57, 57.1 & 57.2

DCC was copied on the reply from Gove Environmental Services to the NHDES. The reply was in response to DCC's February 24th letter to the NHDES outlining DCC's concerns regarding the activity that had taken place on the property. **Gove Environmental rebutted DCC's concerns** about the extent of soil disturbance, changes in hydrologic condition and topography, and a restoration plan that relies on the disturbed areas to naturally re-vegetate, especially since the natural soil profile is not likely intact. Given the fact that the extent of DCC's involvement is advisory only, and having done its due diligence, **it does not appear that further intervention would be productive.**

DCC Review #2020-04

DES File# 2020-0248 (Map 424-99)

Deerfield Fair Association – Deerfield Fairgrounds

Land consultant Alden Beauchemin and NH DES David Price have tentatively arranged to meet at the site to discuss the existence of jurisdictional wetlands in the vicinity of the work area. **No new information is available at this time.**

New Notifications Received:

NH DOT: Notice of Routine Roadway 5 – INKIND HEADWALL REPAIR ON ANY SIZE CULVERT
Headwall supports twin 36" RCP culverts as well as the roadway of Rt. 107. No NHB or community Impacts.

DES Shoreland Impact Permit #2021-00597 (Note Conditions) – Pursuant to RSA 483-B:6, II

Timothy Socha Trust – Map 202 Lot 2 – Northwood Lake

Impact: 3,550 sq. ft. of protected shoreland to replace a house and install new septic system

DES Shoreland Impact Permit #2021-00832 (Note Conditions) – Pursuant to RSA 483-B:6, II

Phoenix Construction & Development, LLC – Hammond Rd., Map 208 Lot 22 Freeses Pond

Impact: 8,304 sq ft of protected shoreland to demolish & replace the primary structure, add a deck, a driveway & install a new well and septic.

- 4/5/21 Lamprey River Advisory Committee Letter received - Blanding's turtles sighted in the vicinity and spotted turtles may also use the site.

DES Shoreland Impact Permit Application #2021-00953 – Request for More Information

Pursuant to RSA 483-B:5-b, V(a) – **Provide Natural Heritage Bureau report**

Phoenix Construction & Development, LLC – 22 Hammond Rd., Map 208 Lot 26 Freeses Pond

Impact: Construct a driveway partially within the 150–250-foot SWQPA zone around Freeses Pond to access the buildable portion of the lot.

- 3/21/21 Lamprey River Advisory Committee Letter received - Blanding's and spotted turtles appear on the site plan – LRAC Recommends NHB report

Announcements/Correspondence:

Resident Chris Carr notified DCC that Turtle Crossing signs were hinged by Phil Bilodeau and are now up.

A Motion to Adjourn by Serita Frey was seconded by Wes Golomb with all members voting in favor.

Chair Frey adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 14, 2021

(Please check the website townofdeerfieldnh.com for scheduling changes)

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