

## DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2021

**Roll Call Attendance:** Haley Andreozzi, Josh Freed, Serita Frey, Chloe Gross, Wes Golomb, Erroll Rhodes, Jo Anne Bradbury (Alternate)  
**Members Absent:** Brian Adams  
**Visitors & Guests:** None

Serita Frey opened the meeting at 7:07 pm. The July meeting picked up where DCC left off in May after the last-minute cancellation of the June meeting due to the logistical complications of quickly transitioning from ZOOM to an in-person meeting at the GBW.

The June agenda included a request from Andrew Butler, a Ph.D. student at UNH, to conduct research on the Arthur Chase Town Forest. As described in his email to Serita Frey, the project is a collaboration between NH Fish and Game and UNH that would evaluate methods for monitoring furbearer species and study furbearer-habitat relationships in New Hampshire. The fieldwork would consist of...*deploying a trail camera in the summer and track stations in the fall to gather data on furbearer occurrence.* Bear-Paw, the easement holder for the Town Forests, was informed of the request and after reviewing the easement deed, found the research to be consistent with the terms of the easement. After investigating the methods to be employed, Chair Frey granted permission to move ahead with the project. Members concurred with her decision. One trail cam has been mounted and track stations will be installed in the fall. Ms. Frey also noted that there are currently trail cams at both the Corey WMA (NH Fish & Game), and Saddleback (UNH).

Bear-Paw will be employing a professional firm to photograph the Great Brook Corridor using a drone and has secured the permission of the landowners of the parcels that make up Great Brook for the drone flight over their respective properties. As the Marston Family Town Forest is part of Great Brook, Rue Teel, Stewardship Coordinator of Bear-Paw, reached out to the DCC for the Town's permission for the drone flight. Ms. Teel noted that the use of *unmanned aerial vehicles* was not regulated in the Town's zoning. Having left a voice mail for John Harrington, she also expressed her intention to contact the Deerfield Police. Serita Frey will notify Ms. Teel of DCC's decision to allow.

**Motion:** *Erroll Rhodes moved and Josh Freed seconded a motion to allow the use of a drone to photograph the Marston Family Town Forest parcel.*

**Discussion:** Wes Golomb indicated that he was in favor of the use of the drone based on the purpose of its use as a one-time occurrence, but not in general.

*The members voted unanimously in favor of the motion as discussed*

### **Membership:**

New members **Josh Freed, Chloe Gross, Erroll Rhodes, and alternate Jo Anne Bradbury, have been sworn in.** Former member Jim Deeley has also expressed interest in becoming the second alternate. Jim McDonald conveyed his interest in becoming a DCC volunteer in an email to Serita Frey who will reach out to him.

### **Marston Warrant Article #9:**

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the **Marston warrant article was approved by a vote of 589 to 139 and now becomes the Marston Family Town Forest.** On July 6<sup>th</sup>, the BOS signed the Bear-Paw and LCHIP easement deeds, paving the way for reimbursement to the Conservation Fund of \$50,000 paid into the project. Serita Frey will inquire about recording of the easement deed and the process for conveying the funds to the Town.

### **Easements and Land Protection:**

#### **McCarron Rd. – Map 413 Lot 7**

On June 1, 2021 DCC received an email from Mark West, West Environmental, Inc. who is currently working on the stream/wetland restoration project on McCarron Rd. As required by the Deerfield Planning Board and the conditions noted in NHDES Permit #2011-02869 dated February 11, 2019 (with a name change date of May 14, 2021), a **3.8-acre conservation easement was approved as mitigation for wetland violations.** Issuance of the permit was contingent upon the execution of the CE. The original plan was for the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) to hold the easement; however, RCCD no longer accepts these conservation easements and **Mr. West has reached out to DCC to determine if there would be any interest in holding the easement.**

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Serita Frey's understanding is that the area possesses minimal benefit. Haley Andreozzi remarked that the parcel is 50% wetland and 50% upland and so small that the logistics and expense of management likely would outweigh any benefits. **A site visit was suggested to learn more. Monetary compensation to the conservation fund was also mentioned.**

There are **a number of scenarios for structuring the easement**, but enforcement of the terms of any of them could prove to be a challenge. Such was the case with violations on the Cottonwood Estates conserved area with no homeowners' association to intervene. And DCC's oversight role over the homeowners who are responsible for monitoring the Brown's Mill easement, is awkward at best. Serita Frey will invite Mark West to DCC's August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Members questioned to what degree DES would be involved in the easement process.

### **Baker Backland:**

DCC received a 6/14 email from Jim Oehler (NH Fish and Game) inquiring about the **status of DCC's previous attempts to conserve the back land associated with the Baker property which abuts Corey WMA**. It appears that approximately 250 feet of woods road that crosses the Baker lot is being used for public access to Corey. Although not posted, Mr. Oehler understands that the owner objects to its use. Fish and Game would like to continue to retain the access without at the same time encroaching on the Baker's land. Serita Frey spoke with former member Kate Hartnett who, with Mr. Oehler, previously approached the landowners. It is not known if the owners are open to conservation at this time and Mr. Oehler is looking for an update. The headwaters of the Lamprey are located on the property.

### **Projects 38, 39 and 40:**

Discussion of these proposed easements will require the input of Katrina Amaral, Bear-Paw.

### **Trails:**

**Great Brook Signs:** DCC was informed of a new sign that will be placed at the Burbank Woods Preserve stating allowed uses for the trail, as follows:

*"The land you are entering is privately owned and protected from development by conservation easements. Please be respectful of the owners and kind to the land. Foot traffic only – stay on the trail – leash and clean up after dogs. Absolutely no fires!"* A second sign has been proposed for the Harvey Road end of the Great Brook Trail. Owners have been experiencing ...some negative consequences of having the public on their land. Al Jaeger is creating the signs.

### **Stewardship:**

#### **Lindsay-Flanders Conservation Area:**

**Alan Perkins posted the newly-purchased signs outlining prohibited activities.** Jo Anne Bradbury will ask Brian Adams about the status of the purchase of game cameras. Since the signs are generic, it was suggested that there should be some indication that the property was being posted under the authority of the Town of Deerfield as owner. Serita Frey will ask Alan Perkins to attach the yellow CE boundary tags to the signs, which will identify the property as a **DEERFIELD CONSERVATION EASEMENT**. Rue Teel is currently working on signs and kiosks for the Town Forests to which Bear-Paw holds easements.

**The breaches in the stone walls have been barricaded and reopened numerous times over the years.** The property has been the subject of illegal shooting, damaging ATV traffic, dumping and fires. Josh Freed volunteered to assist in erecting physical barriers that would not be easily removed; suggestions were a 1000# stone or log and the equipment to accomplish the task. Serita Frey will inform Mr. Perkins that there are members interested in being involved in the project. It was noted that areas that receive more positive use get less negative use and that having Deerfield's trail maps available on *Trail Finder* was a way to accomplish this. Planning Board Trail maps are currently available from the DCC website via the Planning Board site. Serita Frey suggested offering the digitizing and posting of the trail maps as a *Capstone* project to one of her grad students. **DCC members meeting at Lindsay-Flanders for a site visit and inviting the public to attend was suggested.**

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**Merrill/Kay Williams Easement:**

**DCC last visited this CE in 2019 and should schedule monitoring for this fall with Frank Mitchell.** The front of this parcel is a 10-acre tree farm with a CE in the back which is also treed. Ms. Frey explained that when the Merrill's bought the parcel, intending to start a tree farm on it, DCC discovered that the language of the CE deed was vague, triggering discussion about the proper management of the project. DCC worked with the landowners at the time to minimize disturbance and damage to the land.

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

No updated information was available regarding the reported excavation activity on this parcel which is under a conservation easement held by The Forest Society (SPNHF). It was thought that the property had changed ownership. **Additional investigation is needed.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion:** *Serita Frey moved to approve the minutes of the May meeting. The motion was seconded by Haley Andreozzi. The clerk asked to strike the reference to Thurston Pond Rd. being private/discontinued on page one, in the second paragraph of the discussion on the Eversource Conditional Use Permit Application. The clerk explained that she was not in possession of complete information at the time of the writing. Haley Andreozzi, Serita Frey and Wes Golomb voted to accept the minutes as revised.*

**Finance:**

Haley Andreozzi reported the **statement balance in the conservation fund at the end of June was \$276,767.10** including interest of \$35.25 in May and \$34.12 in June. Ms. Andreozzi reported that there will not be a Land Use Change Tax deposit for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021.

**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**

Although the landowner's representative, Gove Environmental, addressed and 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, DCC does not agree with the **DES final decision to approve the After-the-Fact Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application.** Wes Golomb will reach out to the abutter for an update on their flooding issues since completion of the site restoration plan and inform them of DCC's extensive intervention in the matter. Photographic evidence that was initially gathered could be supplemented at that time. 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:**

**DES File# 2021-01520 – Standard Dredge & Fill Application**

**NH Department of Transportation – Bridge Replacement – **Route 107 Freese's Pond****

- Impact 1,525 SF (36 LF) in bed of Freeses Pond and 786 SF (26 LF) in bank of pond to replace existing bridge. Additional 719 SF (10 LF) temporary impacts to bed of pond and 64 SF (4 LF) temporary impact to banks to result from in-water erosion control measures around inlet & outlet (i.e., steel sheet piles) & clean water bypass.
- Replace 8.3' x 12.8' corrugated metal culvert w/ 10' x 14' precast concrete box culvert w/ precast wingwalls

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- Bridge in “serious” condition, structurally intolerable and on NHDOT’s Red List since 2010. Structure exhibits heavy rust, scaling, plate gaps & a sagging roofline w/cracked stone walls. 07-2020 immediate repair needed.
- Early 2022: Begin Construction mid-spring, road closure July & August, Completion September 2022
- 6/15 Lamprey River Advisory Committee Review Letter: No Objections

### Announcements/Correspondence:

#### Deerfield Old Home Day – August 21<sup>st</sup>:

**DCC received an invitation** to join with the Heritage Commission, Parks and Rec, Veasey Park and the Cemetery Commission **to have an informational display at the August 21<sup>st</sup> Deerfield Old Home Day.** Ideas for a display included providing copies of trail maps, information about, and photos of Deerfield’s conservation properties, a fact sheet including DCC’s mission statement, and an explanation of what the Conservation Commission is all about.

### ZOOM Meetings:

Members suggested **encouraging the BOS to communicate to the Legislature, a desire to retain the ability to meet over ZOOM.** Allowing the public to access the various meetings remotely this past year significantly increased resident involvement, cultivating a better-informed citizenry. A continuation of the practice would allow for flexibility, expand accessibility and promote healthy participation. The ability to successfully meet electronically, however, would require a significant improvement in the technology currently being used by the Town. It is believed that the Town may be able to use Cares Act funds for that purpose. **DCC will submit a written request to the BOS.**

### Board & Committee Questionnaire:

DCC has been asked to respond to **a questionnaire generated by the Town Clerk’s Office that provides general information about Deerfield’s Boards and Committees.** The information will become part of an informational packet. The data should be returned to the Town Clerk’s Office by November 30, 2021.

### BOS Quarterly Updates:

Although DCC was not physically represented before the BOS at its 6/21 meeting, DCC’s quarterly update was submitted to the Board for review.

Serita Frey was unanimously “moved” to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm.

**The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 9, 2021**

*(Please check the website [townofdeerfieldnh.com](http://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*