

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
1967 – FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING – 2022
Meeting Minutes – **April 11, 2022**

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

Serita Frey **opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.**

Membership:

Chair Frey reported that there is an opening for a regular member to fill the position previously held by Brian Adams. The position has been offered to alternate member Jo Anne Bradbury; however, DCC will continue to seek additional candidates. Member Chloe Gross announced that she will be unable to attend meetings during this summer and then for the following seven months. Chair Frey will be absent for four months in the fall.

Motion: *Serita Frey moved to re-appoint members Chloe Gross and Haley Andreozzi whose terms of office expire on April 30th. The new terms of office would continue through April 30th 2025. Erroll Rhodes seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

Project #39: Adami/Cote – 24.76 Ac. – Map 210 Lot 041 – Mountain Rd/Nottingham Rd:

The BOS signed the conservation easement deed for the Adami-Cote project at its March 28, 2022 meeting. In order for DCC to expend conservation funds toward the project costs, the Town must retain an interest in the property. The easement deed grants the Town of Deerfield an executory interest in the easement, necessitating the BOS to sign the easement deed and fulfilling the requirement allowing for the expenditure. Kaitlin Deyo represented Bear-Paw at the signing.

One of the BOS members voiced his concern regarding loss of potential tax revenue if the land is conserved rather than developed. The member was informed by other BOS members that it is likely the parcel is already being assessed at a lower rate as open space (in current use), and that after the landowners grant the conservation easement to Bear-Paw, the assessment on the parcel might decrease slightly since the parcel could no longer be subdivided. The BOS ultimately voted to approve signing of the easement deed. **After a public hearing on November 8, 2021, DCC voted to contribute \$6,410.00 toward the payment of project transaction costs, and will approve the invoice for payment when received.**

Deerfield Master Plan:

Haley Andreozzi represented the DCC at the **March 10th Planning Board meeting to discuss the formation of a Master Plan Update Committee.** Since that time there have been no further meetings scheduled as the Planning Board awaits a response to its request for volunteers to represent the various Town boards, commissions and committees. The current plan is to update a limited number of chapters in the coming year based on available funding. Erroll Rhodes suggested that the DCC should encourage putting forth a warrant article in 2023 to adequately fund the update of the Master Plan.

Stewardship/Easement Monitoring:

All but one of the required annual monitoring reports for the properties comprising the LCIP-funded Great Brook Corridor were forwarded to the Conservation Land Stewardship Program. The Curry 342 Ac easement was last monitored by Deb Campelia in 2015. Erroll Rhodes and Josh Freed have volunteered to walk the easement boundaries and provide the report for 2021.

Wes Golomb will reach out to Brian Adams regarding the location of the trail cam mounted at Lindsay-Flanders. It is currently unclear if anyone is checking the recordings. Serita Frey will also email Mr. Adams.

Freese Town Forest - Posting:

Members have decided on a resolution to the confusion being created by multiple signs, (Safety Zone/No Hunting Beyond This Point) at the entrance and across the frontage of the Freese Town Forest. Erroll Rhodes spoke with an abutter on Mt. Delight who reported that the signs were put up by hunters and gun owners and who also stated that there have been out-of-state (Massachusetts) shooters.

Members agreed that the existing signs should be removed. A map of the parcel defining the boundaries within which hunting is allowed and a copy of the RSA's regulating discharge of a firearm will be posted on the sign at the entrance of the Freese CE. Members agreed that posting the boundaries of privately-owned properties should be the responsibility of each individual abutting landowner. Serita Frey will draft a letter to the abutters explaining that DCC will be removing the existing signs on Mt. Delight and posting informational signs at the entrance to the CE. Erroll Rhodes has volunteered to personally

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reach out to the Mt. Delight abutters. Also mentioned was the lack of clarity with respect to the responsibility for enforcement; when does it rest with NH Fish Game or Deerfield Police.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: *Serita Frey moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Josh Freed and approved as written.*

Finance:

The balance in the Conservation Fund at the end of March was \$347,430.76 which included February interest of \$25.15, March interest of \$28.08 and a February deposit of \$1,169.13 representing a carryover from DCC's 2021 operating budget. DCC's 50% portion of Land Use Change Tax of \$19,245.00 was also included in the balance.

Public Outreach:

Facebook:

Wes Golomb reported that to date, DCC's Facebook page has received 316 likes and that there are 350 individuals following the social media platform.

Recorded Meetings:

The system for broadcasting meetings on ZOOM with livestreaming on Public Access Channel 24 and YouTube is now operational. DCC has reached out to John Harrington to determine what training will be needed to operate the equipment. **Mr. Harrington will be coordinating a training session which can include multiple operators per DCC's request.**

Announcements/Correspondence/Reminders:

Erroll Rhodes announced that **plans are underway for a quarterly publication to be called *The Dooryard Gazette*** which will be sent out to Deerfield residents. Serita Frey suggested DCC submit an article on how easements work. Other ideas for submissions were an article on Lindsay-Flanders, and how to find Deerfield trails.

Chair Frey was notified of a new procedure for contacting the various Boards and Commissions. DCC's emails will be forwarded to Serita Frey's Gmail account.

Regulated Wetlands:

DCS Paving Plan: Erroll Rhodes reported that **board members of the Deerfield Community School were reluctant to pursue moving forward with the paving of the parking lot at the school.** It is understood that the detention basin adjacent to Freese's Pond is in need of maintenance to mitigate pollution from stormwater runoff into the pond; however, **it appears that the DCS Board feels constrained by the terms of the 2014 warrant article which reads as follows:**

...This plan for the unpaved portion of the parking lot shall use low impact development techniques and environmental best practices, such as porous pavement, to minimize the pollution entering Freese's Pond and the Lamprey River Watershed. The plan shall be developed in consultation with the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board.

To date, DCC has not been approached by the school board requesting input. **Chair Frey stated that DCC is open to discussing a plan and working with the DCS board.**

Nottingham Rd:

Erroll Rhodes has completed the formal complaint form that DCC will submit to the DES Land Resources Management Program, asking them to investigate a possible violation on property located on Nottingham Road. It was observed that a wet area within 30 feet of a stream has been covered in gravel. Chair Frey has signed the complaint on behalf of the DCC.

A motion by Serita Frey to adjourn at 8:15 pm was seconded by Wes Golomb and passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 9, 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