

## DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017

Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2017

**Members Present:** Erick Berglund, Deb Campelia, Jim Deely, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett  
**Members Absent:** None  
**Visitors:** Haley Andreozzi

**At 7:05 pm** Chair Serita Frey called the meeting to order.

**Visitor Haley Andreozzi was in attendance, wishing to acquaint herself with DCC members and the operation of the commission.** Ms. Andreozzi is a Wildlife Biologist and is currently the *Wildlife Outreach Program Coordinator* with the UNH Cooperative Extension. Ms. Andreozzi shared that she was attracted to Deerfield as a conservation-minded community. DCC would welcome the expertise she could contribute to the group, either as a member or as a volunteer. Deb Campelia, who introduced Ms. Andreozzi to the DCC, has also been in **contact with another potential volunteer who is interested in easement monitoring**, and who may accompany monitors walking the Curry easement this spring.

### **Membership:**

**Election of Officers for 2017 - 2018:** A motion by Kate Hartnett with a second by Wes Golomb **to retain the current slate of officers** (Serita Frey, Chair and Erick Berglund, Treasurer) passed unanimously.

**The BOS has re-appointed Jim Deely, Wes Golomb and Kate Hartnett as members of the DCC through 2020.** Mr. Deely has encouraged the commission to actively seek a replacement for his position since other obligations prohibit him from fully serving. In the interim, Kate Hartnett suggested only calling on him to attend on an as needed basis. A replacement would also be required to take on the role of Chair of the Trails Committee. Mr. Deely agreed to stay on until a replacement is found to step up to those roles.

**DCC members bid a sad farewell to Deb Campelia** who has become an integral and valued member of the DCC team. Ms. Campelia is leaving the commission, and Deerfield, to serve in the Peace Corps. DCC's loss is the Peace Corps' gain and Ms. Campelia will be sorely missed. DCC thanks her for her willingness to serve, and her contributions in the areas of trail maintenance and easement monitoring. The members wish her well! As a parting gift, Ms. Campelia presented the DCC with several hundred *Walking Deerfield* zipper pulls which are intended as awards for walking the various town trails.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion by Serita Frey to approve the **minutes from the April 10th regular meeting** was seconded by Deb Campelia. Wes Golomb and Jim Deely abstained; all others voted in favor.

**Finance:** Mr. Berglund reported the balance in the **Conservation Fund on March 31<sup>st</sup> was \$317,180.93 and on April 30<sup>th</sup> was \$323,773.86.** Mr. Berglund noted that these balances do not reflect the advance payment to Berry Engineering of \$4000 for the Boisvert survey.

**Northern Pass Update:** **Kate Hartnett updated members on the Northern Pass proceedings** and made the following observations:

- The Site Evaluation Committee's (SEC) review process has entered the adjudicatory phase including cross examination of expert witnesses.
- NPT's plans should have been essentially complete when presented to the SEC but are constantly in flux
- Grafton County Attorney's cross examination of NPT's panel of construction experts brought to light numerous deficiencies in the witnesses' understanding of the SEC criteria and process

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- Conflicts and inconsistencies in the testimony of witnesses on NPT's panel of construction experts revealed a lack of familiarity with the project's details, including the need to minimize environmental impacts
- A lack of interest in potentially money-saving changes to the US route stemming from changes to the route in Canada
- Questions surround the nature of land purchases in the North Country (the region lacks existing rights-of-way for the project).
- Disregard by surveyors of historical data provided by the NH Department of Transportation regarding ROW layouts
- Absence of well thought out planning to minimize construction disruptions in towns

Ms. Hartnett expressed concern that the Town, as an intervenor, currently lacks legal representation during these critical proceedings which could limit its ability to participate in the process. **It is felt that representatives of the BOS, Planning Board and DCC should come together as a team to share information.** Environmental aspects will be taken up in June. Hearings run through September and given the important consideration being placed on public interest, **citizens are encouraged to become involved, either by attending hearings, signing up to make their voices heard during the public comment days (6/15, 6/22 and 7/20), or by posting a comment to the SEC on the website as noted below.**

Comments can be submitted very simply from the **SEC Welcome page** at <https://www.nhsec.nh.gov> >Select [Click here to submit Public Comments on open dockets](#)> Select **2015-06 Northern Pass Transmission-Eversource** from the drop down box for [SEC docket where your comments will be filed](#)>Complete the [public comment form](#). You can also cut and paste your comment from a Word doc. onto the form.

If you would like to **read comments others have submitted**, on the *Welcome* page for the SEC website, select from the left-hand column, **Projects> 2011-2021> Northern Pass Transmission-Eversource (SEC Docket No. 2015-06)**> [Click Here for Comments to SEC Docket No. 2015-06](#).

Erick Berglund noted that **members of the SEC will be making site visits** to the towns for two days to view potential impacts. A date has not yet been set for Deerfield. Additional concerns were expressed regarding the **lack of a current funding mechanism for legal representation.**

On 4/11/2016 DCC was copied on a DES Land Resources Management File #3195 (Deerfield Map 210 Lot 54, North Rd) notifying owner Joseph Reed of **reported disturbance of land without a DES Alteration of Terrain permit or proper authorization.** DCC has received no follow-up correspondence from DES on the matter. On 4/23/2017 Kate Hartnett received an emailed **field report from James Page high-lighting road building activity through wetlands located at 27 North Rd, Map 210 Lot 54.** Ms. Hartnett subsequently contacted Mr. Page and in addition to the above violation discussed vegetative management issues and complaints of clearing, as well as **violations of BMP's related to the Geo Borings being conducted in conjunction with the NPT project.** .

**On 4/28/2017, Ms. Hartnett met with DES staff regarding the above issues and was informed that DES was not authorized to address any issues related to the substation since it is considered a Northern Pass issue,** and that vegetative management is not regulated by DES. Ms. Hartnett is receiving conflicting information about whether these issues are under DES or SEC purview and feels that the Northern Pass Project is overwhelming DES staff resources. **Ms. Hartnett requested DCC authorization to pursue the above**

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**matters further**, along with Mr. Page, with the goal of coming up with a plan to address the ongoing violations.

After discussion, **members voted unanimously in favor of a motion by Serita Frey, seconded by Wes Golomb, to authorize Kate Hartnett** to work with James Page to pursue the details of the alteration of terrain and wetland work on North Rd, the clearing/vegetative management issues and the violations of best management practices related to the NPT geological borings, and to determine the most effective plan for enforcement.

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

**Project #31:** Kate Hartnett and Serita Frey met with Bear-Paw staff to discuss next steps on the LCHIP application for this project and are waiting for feedback from Dan Kern. Bear-Paw will be contacted to clarify if an official public meeting/hearing is required or if a meeting with the BOS, possibly along with the Planning Board and/or the Heritage Commission would constitute the *official endorsement of the project* needed to indicate town support. Although not a historic preservation project, the *historic nature* of the parcel is a valuable component and a Heritage Commission endorsement could be an asset. **Deb Campelia has prepared a report on the history of the parcel.** It is understood that once the application is submitted the details of the project, along with personal financial information of the participants, will become public; however, prior to submission, DCC does not wish to lose its competitive advantage for the grant. **It was decided to enter a non-public session prior to the close of the meeting to further discuss the project.**

**Brown's Mill:** NH Fish and Game is awaiting approval from the Governor and Council on the easement, after which the attorney has agreed to provide the DCC with a copy of the recorded deed.

### **Easement Monitoring:**

**Great Brook Corridor:** Volunteer Will Frey, Frank Mitchell and Al Jaeger were successful in marking the boundaries of the Great Brook Corridor conservation easement.

**Curry:** Deb Campelia has not heard from the owner, however, resident Aron DiBacco has expressed an interest in accompanying the monitors when they walk the easement. It is hoped that going forward, the volunteer will be able to assist in monitoring the parcel in Ms. Campelia's absence.

### **Town Forest Protection – Boisvert Town Forest:**

To date there has been no feedback from the surveyor.

### **Deerfield Open Space Plan (DOSP) Update:**

The project is still under way.

### **Trails:**

**Lindsay/Flanders:** The plan for Deb Campelia, Alan Perkins and Dan Kern from Bear-Paw to **mark a new section of trail through the Lindsay-Flanders Conservation Area off Cole Rd** is still pending. The addition of a loop to the existing system was proposed and tentatively mapped in the fall of 2016.

**Chase Town Forest:** Jim Deely was encouraged to post a call for volunteers on the Trails Club Facebook page to tackle the **blow-downs reported on the Chase lot** between the start of the trail and the stream.

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**Dowst-Cate Town Forest:** Deb Campelia informed the group that she and Phil Bilodeau have **re-marked the trails since it had been logged; that there is only a small amount of clearing needed.** Jim Deely can ask for volunteers on Facebook for the clearing, now that the trails are marked. Mr. Deely was asked to remind volunteers that no wood can be taken from the site.

### **Regulated Wetlands:**

- **Possible VIOLATION:** Complaint: 4/23/17 Email from James Page – Road building through wetland Map 210 Lot 54 – 27 North Rd (Reference: 4/11/16 DES Land Resources Management File #3195)
  - (Kate Hartnett will address as noted in the Northern Pass report above)

### **NEW Wetland Notifications:**

- **NH-Department of Resources and Economic Development – Div. of Forests and Lands**  
**Notice of planned timber harvest – Pawtuckaway State Park (Deerfield) – 104 Acres – Project P1-622**  
Bidding to begin in the fall 2017. Future notifications of successful bidder (responsible for timber tax) and volumes sold will follow. Forester in charge: Bryan Comeau (603) 227-8736.
- **Wetlands and Non-Site Specific Permit 2016-03539**  
4 Loon Ledge (Pleasant Lake) Map 207 Lot 19 – Thomas G. Thorne - Addresses **shoreline impacts.**
  - On 2/14/2017 DES issued **Permit 2016-03479** addressing **structural impacts.** It is unclear if an application received by the Town on 12/14/2016 pertains to one or both of these permits
  - The clerk was asked to contact the Building Inspector to determine if any town permits have been issued for the work described in the application or the permits.

### **PRIOR Wetland Notifications – PENDING DCC REVIEW:**

- **Shoreland Impact Permit #2017-00471** – 3 & 4 Iver Johnson (Pleasant Lake) Map 207 Lots 35 & 40 Joseph/Susan Reed – 45 Cotton Rd – Deerfield  
**Permit Description:** Impact 5,220 SF of the protected Shoreland in order to construct a new garage, install new septic system, and landscape.
  - Above Shoreland Impact Permit was issued but no application was received by DCC or the town for review prior to issuance of the permit. Deputy Town Clerk Kelly Roberts is still waiting for feedback from calls to DES
  - The clerk was asked to contact the Building Inspector to determine if any town permits have been issued for the work described in the application or the permits.
- **Wetlands Utility Maintenance Notification – PSNH dba Eversource Energy**  
Conduct maintenance on the G-146 transmission line to ensure the continued safe and reliable operation of Eversource's transmission & distribution systems. Notification received 1/18/2017.
  - Kate Hartnett will continue to address work being performed in the wetland

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**Announcements/Correspondence/Reminders:**

- **FEMA - Notification of field surveying occurring during spring 2017** for ongoing project creating engineering data models to form the basis for the proposed Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) that will be presented on the Flood Insurance Rate Map.
- **2017 NH Lakes Congress – Sessions:** Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Meredith, NH
- **2017 NH Tree Farm Workshop Series: Caring for Your Forest**
  - May 19<sup>th</sup> – Madison Lumber Mill Tour
  - June 2<sup>nd</sup> – White Pine Management
  - June 16<sup>th</sup> – Creating Habitat for Wildlife Species in Need - Shrublands and Young Forests
  - June 30<sup>th</sup> – Exploring some of NH's Unique Habitats
- **Introducing Green Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience** (Email from Barb Richter, NHACC)
- Info card from : **Vegetation Control Service, Inc.**, 2342 Main St., Athol, MA 01331  
(800) 323-7706 [www.vegetationcontrol.com](http://www.vegetationcontrol.com)
- Kate Hartnett reported that after a year, **Deerfield has finally received 20-plus scenic road signs** at no cost to the town. The signs were provided by Eversource as mitigation for cutting on scenic roads without a public hearing.

**Non-public Session - Project #31:**

At approximately **8:45 pm** **Jim Deely** moved to enter a non-public session under **RSA 91-A:3, II(d)**. *Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.* **Serita Frey** seconded the motion which was followed by a roll call vote, with **Hartnett, Deely, Golomb, Berglund, Frey and Campelia** voting in favor of the motion.

At approximately **9:07 pm** the members re-entered public session. A motion by **Jim Deely** to seal the minutes was seconded by **Erick Berglund** and was followed by a roll call vote with **Hartnett, Deely, Golomb, Berglund, Frey and Campelia** voting in favor of the motion. Chair **Frey** noted that no final decisions were made during the session.

Chair **Frey's** motion to adjourn the meeting at **9:10 pm** was approved unanimously.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 12, 2017**

*(Please check the website for scheduling changes)*

[townofdeerfieldnh.com](http://townofdeerfieldnh.com)

*The draft minutes were prepared and submitted by Judy Marshall. Final revisions to these minutes are contained in the minutes of the following meeting, after approval by the Deerfield Conservation Commission*