

Conservation Commission - Town of Deerfield, NH  
March 14, 2011 Minutes

**Present:** Serita Frey, Dave Linden, Herb McKinney, Diane Thompson

**Members Absent:** Erick Berglund, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett

**Visitors:** Harriet Cady, Bob deRose, Mark Parquette

**Public Comments:**

Ms. Cady inquired when the DCC made the decision to hire Neatline Associates to work on the Open Space Plan. Serita Frey responded that the Open Space Committee is a separate committee, and that the DCC was not involved with that decision. She suggested that Ms. Cady contact the Open Space Committee directly about this decision.

Bob deRose of Abbey Run Construction submitted a Dredge and Fill permit application for committee review in conjunction with work being performed by his company for the Deerfield Veterinary Clinic on South Road. After reviewing the plans and discussing the actual modifications being made, the committee agreed that the project was not technically a dredge and fill since the areas being modified were not wetlands and that the work being performed would not have an adverse impact on wildlife. A motion to approve the application was made and received unanimous approval.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the February 14, 2011 minutes as read.

**Financial Officer's Report:**

A written report was submitted by Erick Berglund prior to the meeting. It did not include the current balance of the Conservation Fund, because the report from the Town Treasurer had not yet been received. The balance of the Conservation Fund at the end of January was \$359,626.73. The DCC 2011 total operating budget of \$2,401 has a balance, as of 3/11/2011, of \$2,191.65 which reflects expenditures of \$209.35 for part time secretarial, legal fees and copies.

**Land Conservation:**

Cottonwood resident Mark Parquette addressed the members with respect to a certified letter, recently mailed to each of the residents of Cottonwood Estates, in which they were asked to respond within 30 days of receipt of the letter with a plan to address easement violations. It further indicated that absent a response, the DCC would move forward with the plan adopted at the January DCC meeting. Serita Frey gave a synopsis of the history of the Cottonwood Estates conservation easement, violations and subsequent proposed remedies, for the benefit of the visitors (see January DCC meeting minutes posted on the town website for details). She indicated that the letters were not meant to be punitive, but were intended to be a vehicle to open the dialogue among the residents, and as a means for the DCC to obtain feedback from them. Mr. Parquette stated that he had witnessed activities that were in violation of easement restrictions and outlined remedial and preventive steps that he and his neighbors had taken without success. He expressed concern over apparent confusion and misinformation regarding the nature of the easement as well as the potential for diminished property values if the unlawful trespass and dumping continued. He agreed to outline his concerns and suggestions in a letter which he will be submitting to the committee. Harriet Cady suggested that posting some form of signage on the property could give clarity to the restrictions and accepted uses of the area. This issue will be on the agenda for the April 11<sup>th</sup> DCC meeting.

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**Project #25:** Erick Berglund has followed up with an e-mail to Dan Kern regarding the status of the agreement submitted by Bear Paw on behalf of the owner. The anticipated \$4000 grant from the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership will be used to offset some of the costs.

**Project #26:** DCC is in the process of obtaining quotes for a summary appraisal. The owner understands and is agreeable to the terms of shared payment for the appraisal

**Town Forest Protection Project:**

Warrant Article #11 passed with 69.2% of the votes cast on the article at the March 8<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting. (816 In Favor vs. 363 Opposed). Harriet Cady expressed concern regarding the issue of conveyance of easements to "...one or more qualified conservation organizations" as stated in the warrant. Serita Frey corrected a misconception that the conservation easement could be used for purposes other than conservation (i.e. Utilities). Ms. Cady also expressed a concern of one of the residents that the signage for the Dowst-Cate Town Forest and Park (as reflected in the deed) is incorrectly referred to only as the Dowst-Cate Town Forest.

**New Business:** Al Jaeger has completed the 2010 monitoring for the Great Brook Corridor and the monitoring forms have been submitted to Steve Walker, Stewardship Specialist with the Conservation Land Stewardship Program at the NH Office of Energy and Planning.

**Old Business:** None

**Correspondence:**

We have received copies of correspondence sent to Douglas Danoff (34 Baker Avenue – Map 202 Lot 9) from the Department of Environmental Services with respect to his application for a Wetlands Permit for repairs to a breakwater on Northwood Lake. Approval is still pending.

**Announcements:** None

**Adjournment:** 8:00 PM

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