

Conservation Commission - Town of Deerfield, NH
May 9, 2011 Minutes

Present: Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden, Herb McKinney, Diane Thompson

Members Absent: Wes Golomb

Visitors: Mark Parquette, Don McMurchy

Approval of Minutes: Review and approval of the April 11, 2011 minutes was tabled until the June meeting.

Financial Officer's Report: Erick Berglund submitted billing in the amount of \$51 for Upton and Hatfield's review of the proposed letter sent to the residents of Cottonwood Estates. It was moved and unanimously approved to ratify its prior electronic approval for payment from the Conservation Fund, along with an expenditure for postage in the amount of \$15.40. There was no report of Conservation Fund activity for April. The operating budget has a balance of \$2043.15 representing approximately 85% of the total budget of \$2401.

Land Conservation:

Cottonwood Estates - Erick Berglund, Serita Frey and Don McMurchy (Northwood Crankpullers) along with Mark Parquette and 2 other residents of Cottonwood Estates met last month to determine the placement of the proposed gate. Although there was agreement on its location, just beyond the fire pond, the width of the opening between the gate and boulders (for pedestrian access) was not agreed upon. Thus DCC Chair Frey opted to bring the question of pedestrian access width to the DCC for a final decision. After a review and discussion of resident inputs and the recommendations of Don McMurchy, the DCC moved and unanimously approved the standard gate opening of 30 inches, contingent on meeting the standards set by the Department of Resources & Economic Development-Bureau of Trails. This would serve to block access to motorized vehicles while allowing for pedestrian, equestrian and non-motorized bike traffic. Although snowmobiles are currently prohibited, Mr. McMurchy requested that consideration be given to include their use in the terms of future easements.

DCC members and Mr. McMurchy discussed various types of signage to be erected, including clearly visible warning signs, boundary markers and posted easement restrictions, as well as reflective paint on the gate and posts. Since this is not a state approved trail, alternate sources for the purchase or donation of signs were discussed. We have approximately a one month window in which to obtain the signs and a padlock which need to be available when the gate is installed. Kate Hartnett suggested a joint meeting with the Police and Fire Departments, the Northwood Crankpullers and possibly Fish and Game to ensure we are all on the same page. Kate will also contact Joe Sears and request his assistance with respect to boundary marking.

Project #25: Erick Berglund read correspondence from Dan Kern requesting additional information regarding the proposed easement. Serita will contact Frank Mitchell with respect to issues to be considered in the drafting of the easement and will also inform Frank and Dan Kern that Dave Linden will be performing oversight of this project going forward. Erick Berglund suggested that Herb McKinney become involved as well.

Project #26: Erick Berglund sent out three requests for a "Restricted Use Summary Report – Appraisal". To date we have received quotes as follows:

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| Heath Appraisal Services | Manchester, NH | \$800 |
| McManus & Nault | Bow, NH | \$1900 |
| Crafts Appraisal Associates | Bedford, NH | No Response |

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A motion to accept the \$800 bid from Heath Appraisal Services was unanimously approved. Erick will contact the companies to inform them of our decision and schedule the appraisal to be performed by the end of May. Serita will forward a copy of the quotes to the owner and coordinate payment with them.

Correspondence was received from Sandy and Pat Cassier regarding the potential for placing a conservation easement on their 70 acre farm at 92 South Rd. Dave Linden will contact the Cassiers and the matter will be placed on the June agenda for discussion.

Strategic Planning: An update is scheduled for the June meeting.

Erick Berglund suggested that, going forward, an effort should be made to assist Cottonwood residents in becoming better informed about their easement. Kate Hartnett suggested extending an invitation to the residents to participate in easement monitoring, which could also serve as an educational opportunity with respect to the purpose and uses of conservation easements.

Erick Berglund directed DCC members to the Department of Energy website which is soliciting comments from citizens relative to the Northern Pass Project, through June 14th. As suggested at the April meeting, the DCC was to take a position on the issue. As a result, it was moved and unanimously agreed that the DCC would stand in opposition to the Northern Pass Project, as currently proposed. Kate Hartnett will draft a statement signifying DCC's position, circulate it among DCC members for review and post to the DOE website.

It was suggested that the DCC be more formally involved in the 2012 "Take Care of Your World" town cleanup day activities.

Town Forest Protection Project: Discussion scheduled for the June meeting.

Regulated Wetlands: We received a Permit by Notification for the Monteverdi property at 1 Willow Lane, Map 207 Lot 69 requesting repair/replacement of an existing wooden dock structure. Also received was an approved Complete Forestry Notification for William Rix, Map 424 Lots 42, 103, 107 and 108.

Old Business: Herb McKinney has set the date to monitor the Curry easement: May 20th at 9 AM. Al Jaeger and Frank Mitchell will be present for the monitoring and will assist with completion of the monitoring forms.

Announcements and Correspondence: We have received an invitation to a multi-region roundtable discussion hosted by the Raymond Conservation Commission at Raymond High School on May 18th at 7 PM. Topics of discussion will be related to working together regionally.

We have received copies of the 2009 and 2010 Easement Monitoring Reports from Bear-Paw for 8 properties.

Judy Marshall (Clerk) will be attending a seminar sponsored by the Local Government Center in June. Special attention will be paid to information regarding meeting protocols and compliance.

We received information from NH Fish & Game regarding free assistance through Operation Land Share with respect to management of land for wildlife.

Adjournment: 9:20 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.