

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2013

Members Present: Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden, Herb McKinney

Members Absent: Erick Berglund

Chair, Serita Frey opened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Lamprey River: Lamprey River Watershed Committee representative Harriet Cady reported on the status of the draft *Lamprey River Management Plan*. The Lamprey River Advisory Committee strives to educate the public in the responsible use of the Lamprey and its tributaries for the protection of Great Bay Estuary into which its waters ultimately flow, about the role it plays as a source of drinking water for the towns along its banks, and of its significance in the promotion of healthy ecosystems. Completion of the plan will result in communities becoming **eligible for grants**.

The Committee is appointed by the DES under RSA 483

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/L/483/483-8-a.htm> and functions in an advisory capacity, providing oversight and informing the DES of activity within a quarter mile of the waters' edge. Plans for development along the designated corridor are forwarded by the DES to the LRAC for review. The Committee can also provide recommendations to communities seeking advice in creating appropriate zoning.

The **deadline for comments and recommendations for the management plan is June 15th**. DCC members will **review the draft management plan and discuss at the June 10th meeting**.

Recommendations coming from the discussion will then be forwarded to Ms. Cady or the LRAC.

<http://www.lampreyriver.org/about-us-2013-management-plan-draft>

Wes Golomb commented on the **impact of Freese's Pond on the quality of the Lamprey**. The one-time community of summer homes is now occupied by year-round residents, resulting in concerns about faulty septic fields and increased introduction of fertilizers and road salt into the water body. The use of vegetative buffers is seen as an important means of protection. Serita Frey noted that DCC could consider inviting Michele Daley to give a presentation in an effort to increase awareness.

New Town Website: Volunteer Kelly Roberts gave members a tour of the new website recently installed by the town, informing them of the many possibilities for the DCC webpage that she will be creating and maintaining. Photos of conservation areas, slideshows, links to important documents, trail maps and plans are just a few of the exciting possibilities that are now open to the DCC to be used as a means of educating, informing and potentially involving residents in the ongoing work of the commission. Members were asked to bring their ideas to the June meeting after which they will be forwarded to Ms. Roberts by the clerk for inclusion on the site.

Approval of Minutes: Serita Frey moved to approve the minutes of the **April 8th 2013** meeting. Kate Hartnett asked if the **Action Items** had been sent to the members per the April minutes. The clerk will confirm. The minutes were unanimously approved without further comment.

Financial Officer's Report: Due to his absence at the meeting, Erick Berglund electronically submitted the **results of March financial activity** which reflected interest in the amount of \$31.54 resulting in an ending **balance in the Conservation Fund of \$247,580.93**.

Serita Frey moved to approve payment of the **invoice from Charlie Moreno in the amount of \$5225**. The Forestry Commission has recommended payment and confirmed that 120 hours of work had been completed to date on the forestry plan for Freese Town Forest and the combined plan for Dowst-Cate and Weiss. Kate Hartnett seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Ms. Frey will forward copies with approval to pay, to Mr. Berglund and the clerk.

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Town Forest Protection Project: Erick Berglund, Serita Frey and Herb McKinney were successful in completing the draft easement deed for final legal review. Serita Frey conferred with Attorney Raymond by phone who made needed **changes to the language**, resulting in a more understandable document. He again stressed his **objection to inclusion of Appendix B, (donor intent) in the deed**, indicating that it did not belong in a legal document. Since much of it is based on undocumented conversation, it cannot be legally enforced. Further, if included, the easement holder could obligate the Town to take unwanted action based upon it. Kate Hartnett questioned the decision based upon the fact that only Lindsay and McNeil contained deed restrictions. According to Ms. Frey's conversation, it would be appropriate to indicate in the easement document that its purpose is to honor the intent of the donors of the properties, but based on the absence of actual letters from the donors, the appendix should not be part of the *recorded* deed and a copy of the donor intent can be kept on hand at the town offices for review. As an alternative, Kate Hartnett suggested crafting language honoring the intent of the donors and **inserting Appendix B into the Comprehensive Forestry Management Plan. A recommendation for its inclusion in the plan and a request to develop related actions will be made to Mr. Moreno.**

Although *Section 8, Administration* must be included, it is now more consolidated, thanks to the efforts of Ms. Hartnett. After a discussion with respect to *Section 4.F – Structure*, the members agreed that **the footprint of the allowed structure will be changed to no larger than 100 square feet.** Ms. Frey has sent a copy of the draft to Dan Kern for review by Bear-Paw's attorney and for discussion at the June meeting. DCC members should **read the final draft and be prepared to make a decision at the June meeting.** Kate Hartnett requested that Dan Kern be asked to bring a tally of the surveyed acreages of the parcels.

Regulated Wetlands: Anticipating a full agenda for the June meeting, Serita Frey suggested postponing the **informal roundtable discussion** proposed for June with Alex Cote and Mark Tibbetts to **discuss DCC's role in collaborating with the Highway and Fire departments where culverts and fire ponds are concerned.**

Forest Management: Kate Hartnett encouraged members to attend the June meeting to discuss the **management objectives for the balance of the town forests.** Alex Cote and possibly Charlie Moreno will be attending.

New Business: Serita Frey suggested extending an invitation to the BOS to observe the operation of sensors placed on the Dowst-Cate property and Lamprey River as part of the **EPSCoR research project** <http://www.epscor.unh.edu/> to collect headwater soil and stream data. (See 8/20/2012 minutes for discussion of project details). A suggestion for inclusion on the new website was made.

Correspondence: DCC is in receipt of a *Complete Forestry Notification – File #2013-01020* following the submission of a *“Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification”* form for work in Deerfield, **Tax Map 208 Lot 026**, owned by Mathes Family Limited Partnership.

Serita Frey adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, June 10th

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