

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2013

Members Present: Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Dave Linden
Members Absent: Erick Berglund and Herb McKinney; Kate Hartnett (Participating by phone)
Attendees: Harriet Cady, Dan Kern

Chair, Serita Frey opened the meeting at 7:05 PM noting that no official business could be conducted since a quorum of the membership was not *physically* present. Ms. Hartnett was participating by speaker phone due to a conflict with her work schedule; however RSA 91-A:2 III prohibits her from being counted as part of a quorum unless physically present.

Approval of Minutes: To be addressed at the August meeting

Financial Officer's Report: Report postponed until the August meeting along with discussion and approval of the proposed 2014 budget. Members have received copies for preliminary review.

Lamprey River:

Harriet Cady asked if any comments on the draft of the *Lamprey River Management Plan* <http://www.lampreyriver.org/about-us-2013-management-plan-draft> had been submitted by the members. Serita Frey read from the June minutes that *Erick Berglund felt the document provided a good start but was unclear about what the document actually does; that, organizationally, goals should be presented first followed by accomplishments and future actions, and noted its lack of enforceability. Serita Frey felt it provided a guiding principle. In addition, Dave Linden had commented that Nichols and Hartford Brooks were not included in the plan. Wes Golomb had noted that laws have been relaxed and controls needed to be maintained up-river to manage down-stream flooding. Kate Hartnett was to have submitted a comment from Deerfield suggesting they encourage the use of vegetative buffers as part of the plan's goals.*

Ms. Cady explained that the committee was required to produce a management plan, that the goals start with the management plan, and that the board has no authority and must defer to DES. <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/L/483/483-8-a.htm>. She noted that completion of the plan would allow towns to apply for grant funds. Ms. Cady also requested that DCC investigate brush cutting that apparently had taken place down to the river on the former Sullivan property off Route 107. Wes Golomb informed the members that due to a change in his teaching schedule he was once again available to resume attending the *Lamprey River Advisory Committee* meetings. Mr. Golomb and Ms. Cady had previously been representing Deerfield on the committee.

Town Forest Protection Project: Dan Kern was present to discuss the marked-up version of the deed. Edits largely consisted of additions/revisions to the following areas:

- **Generally:** Reinsertion or alteration of language for purposes of clarification, and references back to the Management Plan to ensure activities were consistent with the Plan
- **Conservation Purposes:** To emphasize their consistency with the goals of the Grantee
- **Property Stewardship:** To ensure approval by Grantee of any management activity initiated by the Grantor

Absent a quorum, the approval of the Easement will be postponed until the August meeting subject to final review by Attorney Raymond and approval by the BOS. Dan Kern anticipates the baseline documents will be ready for the August meeting.

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Forest Management: Serita Frey responded to Mrs. Cady's concerns about the Town's proposed forestry activity at Dowst-Cate and McNeil, explaining that the Forestry Commission was working closely with DCC and that any timber harvesting would be driven by the Management Plans currently in place which are consistent with the terms of the proposed Easement. Alex Cote clarified that the town's Forester, Charlie Moreno, had recommended timber cuts on both parcels, partly in anticipation of potential loss due to destruction by invasives, including Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. It is likely that the increased spread of the insect is due in part to climate change. (See Links Below including NH affected areas)

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/resource000550_rep572.pdf

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002131_Rep3145.pdf

http://extension.unh.edu/sites/default/files/images/forestsandtrees/hwa_towns13.jpg

Mr. Cote expressed his desire to secure DCC's permission for the cuts as soon as possible since Mr. Moreno would like to begin the operation before late summer with Dowst-Cate to be harvested first followed by McNeil. Members present unofficially had no objections to the proposal; however a formal vote will be taken at the August meeting when a quorum will be present. Mr. Moreno will oversee the operation including the RFP, the marking of trees and the timber sale. Proceeds from the sale will offset Mr. Moreno's fee and costs of the cut. Mr. Cote anticipates \$7000 to \$10,000 net profit from the sale out of which DCC will be reimbursed for the cost of the Management Plans for the town forests, as was previously agreed; the balance to be placed in the Forestry Fund. It was noted that since the Management Plans are in place, decisions surrounding the harvest have been simplified.

Kate Hartnett informed the members that she has requested an estimate from Mr. Moreno for management plans for Lindsay-Flanders as well as prioritization of the balance of the properties. Ms. Hartnett has also addressed the inclusion of donor intent in each of the Management Plans. Serita Frey cautioned that the research area at Dowst-Cate should be avoided and that she could identify the location for them prior to the cut. The clerk informed Mr. Cote that the BOS had requested an electronic copy of the Management Plans. Mr. Cote agreed to request a PDF version of the plans from Mr. Moreno. Serita suggested that Kate Hartnett make the request when she speaks with Mr. Moreno.

Projects #29A & 29B: Serita Frey summarized information provided by Erick Berglund regarding the response to the RFP for limited summary appraisals to be performed on each of the two parcels being considered. Bids were due by June 28th with the final decision to have been announced on July 12th; however the two bids received by the deadline were excessively high, possibly due to a misinterpretation of the work being requested. Mr. Berglund suggested that both bids be formally rejected at the August meeting when a quorum is expected to be present, and proposed another RFP for a second round of bids after determining the appropriate appraisal to be sought.

Nottingham Mountain: There was no discussion regarding the parcel as it was noted that sufficient funds were not available to act on a potential acquisition.

The meeting came to a close at 8 PM.

Please note the revised meeting date!
The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, August 19th

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