

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2015

Members Present: Deb Campelia, Jim Deely, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden
Members Absent: Erick Berglund

Chair Serita Frey called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Town Forest Protection: The scheduled guest from *Bear-Paw Regional Greenways* was unable to attend and discuss the financial aspects of placing an easement **on the Edythe H. Boisvert Town Forest, Map 404 Lot 2** for the permanent protection of the property. The matter was tabled until the September 14th meeting.

Also scheduled for September is a **collaborative discussion on improvements to the existing McNeil Conservation Area management plan**. At the July meeting, Rick Van de Poll, a systems-based ecologist and environmental consultant, presented data compiled in a **report commissioned by the Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative (NALMC)**. Mr. Van de Poll was invited to attend the September meeting to which invitations are also being extended to Town Forester, Charlie Moreno, representatives of the Forestry Commission and Bear-Paw to **collaborate on improvements to the existing McNeil management plan based on the NALMC report**. Frank Mitchell has expressed an interest in weighing in on the discussion and will speak with Dan Kern of Bear-Paw. It was noted that the pending, updated *Bear-Paw 2014 Natural Resources Inventory Report* fits into this discussion.

Approval of Minutes: The **minutes of the July 13th meeting** were reviewed and approved with abstentions by Deb Campelia, Jim Deely and Serita Frey who were not in attendance in July.

Finance: Erick Berglund submitted balances for May and June for the **Conservation Fund**. The Balance at the end of **May was \$229,476.44** reflecting interest of \$29.23, and at the end of **June, \$229,504.73** including interest of \$28.29.

NHACC – Fall Workshop: Serita Frey reported that attempts to contact Emily Lord, Program Manager for the *NH Association of Conservation Commissions* regarding the proposed fall workshop **highlighting DCC's creation of a permanent conservation easement on Deerfield's seven Town Forests and Conservation Areas** have been unsuccessful. Ms. Frey will attempt to firm up arrangements.

Land Conservation: Members are continuing to explore options for conservation in areas of the Lamprey River headwaters.

Phragmites: Chair Frey **summarized DCC's previous efforts to address a stand of invasive Phragmites in a wetland on Route 43**. Kate Hartnett and Serita Frey had **previously met with the owner** and Kate Hartnett had subsequently **met at the site with Doug Cygan, Invasive Species Coordinator from the NH Department of Agriculture and Road Agent, Mark Young**. Ms. Hartnett provided the owners with a **list of potential contractors and asked that they obtain a quote for spraying**. Although there has been no further response from the owners, DCC continues to have major concerns regarding the stand being a **seed source that will spread the invasive into a linked series of neighboring wetlands**. It was hoped that if the owner could be contacted, a **stop-gap measure of cutting back the stand prior to its going to seed** could be suggested; however, it appears that that window of opportunity has now closed **since removal at this stage would encourage the spread of the seeds**.

At Mr. Deely's suggestion, Deb Campelia volunteered to **contact Dawn Genes on the Advisory Committee of the Lamprey River Watershed Association** for their assistance in addressing the problem and to inquire if they have a volunteer certified to chemically treat the invasive. Serita Frey will once again **attempt to reach the owner** and Kate Hartnett will **contact Doug Cygan** to get a sense of what options DCC may have. Jim Deely will **speak with**

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the owner of the adjacent wetland. Dave Linden will **contact Road Agent, Mark Young** to follow up on a previous conversation about possible certification of Highway Department employees for chemical treatment of invasive species in the town.

Merrill (Kay Williams) Easement: Erick Berglund was recently contacted by the Building Inspector who had **received a call from the NH-DES regarding clear-cutting on the Dana and Paula Merrill property, Map 405 Lot 84 located on North Rd.** It is not clear whether a DES permit for *Alteration of Terrain (AOT)* should have been filed prior to harvest. Since being notified last year that a *Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber* had been filed on behalf of the owner, **DCC has invested considerable effort to inform Mr. Merrill of its concerns over soil viability and the size of the proposed acreage to be planted to Christmas trees.** **Conservation members performed a site visit last year** and identified some of the potential drawbacks. A group of students from UNH led by Serita Frey **voluntarily sampled and provided soil analysis, offering recommendations based on a report of their findings.**

Review by both Bear-Paw (executory interest holder) and Town counsel of the 1999 Conservation Easement Deed conveyed by Kay Williams (Book 3400 Page 0039) to the Town of Deerfield concluded the deed lacked enforcement provisions for more restrictive oversight. As such, using section 2Aii of the deed, (“...*Agriculture and forestry on the property shall be performed to the extent reasonably practicable in accordance with a coordinated management plan for the sites and soils of the Property.*”) as the basis of its stewardship authority, the **DCC attempted to educate the owner** about soil erosion, loss of wildlife habitat and the inappropriateness of soils in the areas to be planted. Additionally **alternatives to the proposed plan and specific recommendations for best practices to be used, including 100-foot vegetative buffers to protect surface waters and wetlands, and erosion prevention measures, were offered for inclusion in their management plan.**

In addition to the call from the DES, the *Pleasant Lake Preservation Association* has recently expressed concerns about soil erosion and its effect on Pleasant Lake. **Kate Hartnett has spoken to and is waiting for a response from representatives at NH-DES regarding the *Alteration of Terrain* application and recommended next steps.**

Trails Committee: Jim Deely reported the Trails Committee (DCC sub-committee) **May pot-luck event drew 40 attendees, and featured a speaker on trail building.** Mr. Deely reached out to the group, asking for **volunteers to assist in organizing trails club activities** which would involve trail maintenance and coordinating group walks. To date, there has been no response; however **the Facebook page created for the “club” has drawn 140 contributors.** Mr. Deely cannot individually lead the initiative and is still looking for volunteers and a trail master to head the effort. With the close of the summer months, and the prospect of a fall meeting to re-energize participants, it is hoped that there will be a greater willingness to get involved. At the suggestion of Deb Campelia, the **Trails Committee will be actively looking for motivated individuals to participate in a pilot *Adopt-A-Trail* program.** Mr. Deely can be reached at jim@deelys.net.

Northern Pass: Kate Hartnett directed members’ attention to two articles that appeared in the Berlin Daily Sun relative to the Northern Pass; *Vermont Model Offers Workable Alternative to Northern Pass Plan* and *Draft Environmental Impact Statement Released for Northern Pass Project*. The links to the articles are:

http://www.berlindailysun.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=54543:draft-eis-released-for-northern-pass-project&catid=103:local-news&Itemid=442

and

<http://www.unionleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20150717/OPINION02/150719272>

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Ms. Hartnett also reported that **Bear-Paw had received a *Resilient Landscape Catalyst Grant*** through an initiative launched by the *Open Space Institute* for protection of climate-resilient habitats; “... *lands best suited for long-term adaptation to changes in climate*” due to their “... *connected forests and broad range of features-slopes, valleys, ravines caves and lowlands-(that) exhibit diverse microclimates*”. “*The Nature Conservancy scientists “... have studied and now believe that **by connecting and conserving natural strongholds, land trusts can help wildlife and ultimately humans withstand the effects of climate change***”

<http://www.osiny.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=8519>

Solar-Up: Wes Golomb was pleased to report that the **kick-off campaign for Solar-Up program drew 147 attendees in Deerfield and 110 in Candia. 50 new applications for site visits were received at the Deerfield informational session.** Mr. Golomb is hoping to arrange **open-house site visits** to properties currently utilizing solar net-metering that would be featured on the *Metrocast* public access channel. It was once again suggested that the **Deerfield fairgrounds be considered for a solar site, with the goal of net zero usage.** Mr. Golomb will contact Fair Association representatives about the prospect.

Correspondence: Serita Frey read portions of correspondence from Bob Dillberger of the Mason, NH Conservation Commission requesting DCC’s support in **opposing, on environmental grounds, “...the Northeast Energy Direct natural gas pipeline project proposed by Kinder Morgan and Tennessee Gas Pipeline to cross southern New Hampshire.”** Listed environmental impacts include *Future Conservation Efforts, Water Resources, Wildlife Habitat, and Air Quality.* Additional impacts to farmland and from construction and noise were mentioned.

It was noted that with respect to the impulse to just say “no”, there is a need to consider the *least-worst* way to get our energy; however the **pipeline as proposed would cross at least 34 conservation properties in 15 New Hampshire towns,** placing an emphasis on the need to **address the route.** Members voted to give Serita Frey **authority to sign a copy of the opposition letter** which will be included with those of other conservation commissions, and ultimately be sent to Governor Hassan, federal Representatives and Senators, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

BOS Update: Members suggested the following for the monthly update to the Board of Selectmen:

- Members brainstormed a variety of approaches to the management of **invasives on private property**
- Discussion toward resolution of the posting of “**No Trespassing**” signs by a private individual on **town-owned land** (Tax Map 405 Lot 98/99 – the *SusanYeaton* parcel) will be on the agenda for the September 14th meeting
- Jim Deely, Chair of the **Trails Committee,** is actively looking for motivated individuals to participate in a **pilot Adopt-A-Trail program.** Interested individuals please contact Mr. Deely at jim@deelys.net.
- Member Wes Golomb reported 147 attendees and 50 applications for site visits resulted from **the Solar-Up informational session in Deerfield** with 110 individuals attending the Candia session
- DCC remains concerned and is once again responding to concerns regarding the **clear-cutting on the Merrill property (Map 405 Lot 84) on North Rd. (Kay Williams Easement).**

Serita Frey adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, September 14th

(Please check the website for scheduling changes)

townofdeerfieldnh.com

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