

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2016

**Members Present:** Deb Campelia, Erick Berglund, Kate Hartnett, Dave Linden, Serita Frey  
**Absent:** Jim Deely, Wes Golomb  
**Visitors:** Dan Kern, Frank Mitchell, Al Jaeger

The meeting was **called to order at 7:30 PM** by Chair, Serita Frey

Prior to calling the meeting to order, **members and guests enjoyed refreshments in honor of the Deerfield Conservation Commission's 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1967**, and celebrated Chair, Serita Frey's return from her four-month sabbatical. Al Jaeger provided additional insight into the beginnings of the organization.

Kate Hartnett reported on the agenda that had been undertaken by the Commission in Chair Frey's absence. Ms. Hartnett expressed her **appreciation for everyone's efforts that resulted in the defeat of Warrant Article #18** and adoption of the proposed zoning ordinances which will directly or indirectly serve to benefit conservation.

**Northern Pass Transmission Project:** Erick Berglund informed the members of the **March 16<sup>th</sup> NH Site Evaluation Committee's public hearing** to be held at the Deerfield Fairgrounds at 5 PM. Mr. Berglund briefly described the process and explained that Intervenors have "standing" in the proceedings, giving them a "seat at the table". **Senior Assistant Attorney General Peter Roth is the state-funded Counsel for the Public** whose role is "*seeking to protect the quality of the environment and seeking to assure an adequate supply of energy*", and whose "*duty is to the public generally*".

**Town Forest Protection:** Members discussed the proposed easement on the Boisvert Town Forest on Dow Road off Swamp Road. **Town Forest status, along with the ability to convey a permanent easement on this town-owned property, was conferred by vote of the town on the March 11<sup>th</sup> 2014 warrant.** Serita Frey reported that it was the opinion of Attorney Raymond that the **Boisvert parcel could not simply be added to the easement deed previously conveyed to Bear-Paw in 2014** for the seven town forests and conservation areas, and that a deed should be created to separately convey the Boisvert parcel.

To date, **research into potential transaction funding grants has not yielded results** since the general location of the property does not meet the criteria required to qualify for existing grants. The topography of the 185 acre parcel is steep and rough, and is remotely located with difficult access, and barring the discovery of an existing survey, these factors will make it **more costly to survey and challenging to monitor.** **Costs may be reduced if the easement deed uses essentially the same language that is contained in the 2014 easement deed,** noting that the property description would then be the most cumbersome part of the drafting.

It was moved by Kate Hartnett and seconded by Erick Berglund, *to move forward with the process of conveying a conservation easement to one or more qualified organizations in order to permanently restrict the use of the Edythe H. Boisvert Town Forest, Dow Road, Map 404 Lot 002, to open space purposes, including wildlife habitat conservation, forestry and recreation, as specified in Warrant Article #11 approved by vote of the town on March 11, 2014.* The motion passed unanimously. The members will begin constructing the language for the *easement deed* that will ultimately convey the easement. It is anticipated that the deed will be modeled after the 2014 Town Forest easement deed.

**Project #31:** The members were informed of a **landowner interested in conserving a parcel of land.** The members discussed the **owner's potential alternatives for the property** including market sale (with or without a conservation easement or a deed restriction), subdivision, additional development, and sale, whole or in part, for conservation purposes. Consideration was also given to the parcel's **proximity to other conserved areas,**

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its **long-term revenue potential**, the **estimated value of the property** and **possible methods of funding**. It was decided that a meeting would be arranged between the owner and one or more DCC members to obtain additional insight and to discuss the various options that might be available.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the **February meeting** were approved with one abstention (Serita Frey who was not in attendance in February).

**Finance:** Erick Berglund reported a **balance in the conservation fund at the end of January of \$240,710.06 which reflects interest in the amount of \$30.56 and a deposit of \$417.86 representing the unspent balance of the 2015 budget**. A request for reimbursement for postage in the amount of \$6.96 was approved unanimously. Members were reminded that **DCC will again be operating on the default budget of \$2,077.00** for Fiscal Year 2016. This amount, once again, does not include any funding for the Trails Committee.

**2016 Appointments:** Serita Frey will request that the BOS **re-appoint member Deb Campelia for a three year term April 1, 2016 to April 1, 2019**. Dave Linden's term of office also expires on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016; however **Mr. Linden will be resigning his position at the end of the term**, but will remain a volunteer and friend of the DCC. The members unanimously approved Ms. Campelia's appointment and thanked Mr. Linden for his service over the years.

**Phragmites:** Kate Hartnett will investigate a **potential stand of Pragmites at Routes 107 and 43**.

**Petition Warrant Article #18:** Members agreed that **DCC should express its appreciation to the voters of Deerfield** for their support in defeating Warrant Article #18 on March 8<sup>th</sup>. **Special thanks should go out to the friends of the Deerfield Conservation Commission** who stepped forward to collaborate on and finance the costs of printing and mailing the informational flyer, hold signs on Voting Day, and provide much-needed encouragement. **An article will be submitted to the FORUM** thanking them for their generosity.

**Regulated Wetlands (Notifications):**

- **Approval** – Wetland Program Permit Application DES File# 2016-00160  
Map 411/45 – BMI Realty Trust
- **Approval** – Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notice – DES File# 2016-00408  
Map 409/54 – Hannah Gile Beye

Kate Hartnett reported that the **Planning Board would be making a site visit to the Browns Mill subdivision** to review the conserved area and access to the State of NH Fish and Game area, Map 404 Lot 4.

Chair Frey adjourned the meeting at **9:40 PM**.

**The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2016**  
*(Please check the website for scheduling changes)*  
[townofdeerfieldnh.com](http://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*