

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2016

**Members Present:** Erick Berglund, Deb Campelia, Serita Frey, Kate Hartnett  
**Absent:** Jim Deely, Wes Golomb  
**Visitors:** Joel Destasio, Suzanne Petersen

The meeting was **called to order at 7:15 PM** by Chair, Serita Frey

**New Business:**

**Joel Destasio, visiting on behalf of Trout Unlimited**, informed the members of a new project for wood loading in the North Branch River on the Canon property, South Road, Map 420 Lot 13 which is under a *Wetlands Reserve Program* (WRP) easement. The objective of the project is to **restore in-stream habitats through large wood loading (“chop and drop”) to create a riffle-pool environment that is favorable to the development of trout populations.** Mr. Destasio reported that the first and second tributaries are currently devoid of wood and would benefit from the escalation of stream speed and the increase in nutrients that would occur. Samples will also be taken to determine nitrogen and oxygen levels.

This project would be the third of its kind undertaken in Deerfield since 2015, the first two being on the Graykin property on the Lamprey River and the second on the Barton property on Griffin Brook (See 4/13/2015 Minutes). **Serita Frey moved to approve the applications for expedited review with a second by Erick Berglund. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Suzanne Petersen, Outreach Specialist with the Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee (LRAC)**, explained the LRAC’s efforts to secure a **grant from the National Park Service for technical assistance in developing a recreation map for the upper Lamprey River watershed.** LRAC is looking to partner with the towns of Deerfield, Nottingham, Raymond and Exeter in creating a guide that would “*indicate the location of public lands and trail heads, paddling access, scenic areas, historic sites, suggested bicycle routes and other points of interest*”. Notably, a grant from the LRAC to the *Deerfield Planning Board* and *Neatline Associates* in 2010 resulted in the current 55-page ***Deerfield Trail Inventory and Plan*** available on the Town of Deerfield website: [http://www.townofdeerfieldnh.com/Pages/DeerfieldNH\\_BComm/Conservation/trailmapspb.pdf](http://www.townofdeerfieldnh.com/Pages/DeerfieldNH_BComm/Conservation/trailmapspb.pdf)

**LRAC plans to enlist input from the local conservation commissions, planning boards, heritage and historical societies as it did in creating LRAC’s 2008 brochure for the upper Lamprey River.** The 2008 brochure began with the technical assistance of the National Park Service but ultimately was completed locally. The 2008 guide can be found on the LRAC website at: [http://www.lampreyriver.org/UploadedFiles/Files/LampreyTourMap\\_page\\_1.pdf](http://www.lampreyriver.org/UploadedFiles/Files/LampreyTourMap_page_1.pdf) and <http://www.lampreyriver.org/UploadedFiles/Files/LampreyTourGuide.pdf>.

**The only cost to the DCC would be their time** in meeting with the LRAC and its other partners, **and in providing general recreational and historical information on the locations of existing trails, parks and historical sites.** In addition to the expertise and assistance of DCC members, involvement by the **Deerfield Trails Committee should also be enlisted.** LRAC would also welcome recommendations for appropriate bike trails. **LRAC will submit the application, coordinate the meetings and conduct the fundraising for the GIS mapping.**

Ms. Petersen requested a letter of commitment from the DCC to the LRAC, stating DCC’s support of the project, for inclusion in LRAC’s grant application to the National Park Service. ***Erick Berglund seconded a motion by Kate Hartnett to write a letter of commitment to the LRAC to be used in applying for their grant.*** The motion passed unanimously.

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**Forestry and Land Management:** Phil Bilodeau of the Forestry Committee delivered two bound copies and an electronic media copy of the forestry plan for the Wells Town Forest prepared by Town Forester, Charlie Moreno. Mr. Moreno has stated that he anticipated starting work on the forestry plan for the Alvah Chase parcel, however it was suggested that a **hold be put on that work until DCC has had an opportunity to confirm the history and acreage of that lot.** In the interim, Mr. Bilodeau will contact Mr. Moreno and ask him to **move on to the Hart Town Forest instead.**

Contracts with Mr. Moreno were signed in August of 2013 for timber harvests on both the Dowst-Cate/Weiss Town Forests and the McNeil Conservation Area. The **timber harvest on Dowst-Cate/Weiss was completed and the Town received revenue from the cut in the amount of \$26,360.45.** Mr. Bilodeau was informed that Mr. Moreno will need to refresh the quotes for the logging portion of the contract for the McNeil harvest. Reference was made to the discussion on McNeill at the September 14, 2015 DCC meeting which was attended by Mr. Bilodeau, Mr. Moreno and Rick Van de Poll of the *Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative* (NALMC). The recommendations made by Mr. Van de Poll for the harvest were, per the minutes,... *similar to those made in the forest management plan prepared by Charlie Moreno in 2013.*

Erick Berglund expressed concerns about the forestry revenue being properly allocated and asked Mr. Bilodeau to **confirm that the proceeds from the harvests are being deposited in the Forestry Fund created for this purpose.** Mr. Bilodeau will contact the Town for an accounting of the funds. It was suggested that the revenue from these harvests be published in the annual Town Report to show the **return on the Town's investment in the Town Forests and Conservation Areas in addition to the resulting healthier forests.**

**Northern Pass:** Erick Berglund updated members on the DCC's intervenor status. At a special meeting of the DCC on March 25<sup>th</sup>, *DCC members expressed the desire to remain in Group 3 to minimize expense and maximize effectiveness.* Consequently, **DCC has joined with the Deerfield Select Board and the Planning Board to intervene as a group, along with other affected towns from Holderness south, which now collectively comprise Northern Pass Municipal Group Three.**

Kate Hartnett addressed the need for an official DCC contact to deal with Northern Pass issues. Ms. Hartnett had previously taken the lead on Northern Pass related activities, including DCC's response to the Wetland Application, and filing of the application for intervenor status for the DCC, in her capacity as acting Chair during Serita Frey's recent absence. Serita Frey moved to *Designate Kate Hartnett to continue to serve as the official contact for Northern Pass-related matters for the DCC.* Erick Berglund seconded the motion, which passed with Kate Hartnett abstaining.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion by Chair Frey to approve the minutes from the April 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting was seconded by Deb Campelia. After discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved with the following revisions:

**Edits to 4/11/2016 Meeting Minutes**

**(Page 1– Paragraph 4)** Resident, Harriet Cady objected to the Conservation Commission taking *what she called*, a political position on the Northern Pass which Ms. Cady categorized as “compelled speech”. Ms. Cady felt that advocating for burial of the lines would result in rate increases. Kate Hartnett *offered a rebuttal and* attempted to correct some misconceptions on the part of Ms. Cady.

**(Page 1 – Paragraph 7)** Kate Hartnett, however, noted that in spite of its ample road frontage, section 325 of the Deerfield Zoning Ordinance (Open Space Development) **would place limits on the options for subdivision would require an open space subdivision design for more than three additional lots.**

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(Page 2 – Paragraph 1) Ms. Frey noted that the precedent has been not to pay full value for a property. ~~One option could be a deed restriction on the property being sold.~~

**Finance:** The balance at the end of March of \$277,448.03 includes interest in the amount of \$33.46. In addition, a credit of \$19,850.00 reflects DCC's 50% portion of land use change tax from a prior period. This amount was liened in 2013 and paid in 2015, and the deposit corrects a miscategorization that was discovered in a recent audit. Mr. Berglund anticipates that additional land use change tax revenue of \$7250.00 will be reflected in the April balance.

**Stewardship:** As decided at the April 11, 2016 meeting, Kate Hartnett met with a resident who had asked to be allowed to remove trees downed in the Dowst-Cate Town Forest due to ongoing road clearing by Eversource. The resident had previously contacted Erick Berglund about the removal of the downed timber which was apparently the result of utility cutting. Ms. Hartnett initially contacted the Highway Department, which had no interest in removing the timber due to the difficult access. Serita Frey also reported that she had checked with Mr. Destasio of Trout Unlimited and confirmed that they did not have an ongoing project at Dowst-Cate that could have been the cause of the downed timber or the in-stream wood.

Ms. Hartnett then met with the resident, whom she reported to be conservation-minded, knowledgeable and having a state permit to cut. Only the timber on dry land would be removed, which amounted to approximately one-eighth of a cord, and the wood in the stream would be left in the stream. Ms. Hartnett complimented a concerned resident across the road from Dowst-Cate who questioned their presence, and who reportedly keeps a watchful eye on activity at the Town Forest.

**Project #31:** There was nothing additional to report on the project.

**Easements and Land Protection:** Serita Frey will follow up on the bid process for placing a permanent easement on the Boisvert Town Forest for the June meeting.

**Easement Monitoring:** Serita Frey reported that she had been joined by Deb Campelia, Erick Berglund and Frank Mitchell to perform the annual monitoring of the Kay Williams Easement. Chair Frey will complete the monitoring report.

Serita Frey reported that Frank Mitchell had expressed concerns over the postings he had observed on the town-owned conservation land (former Yeaton parcel) at maps 405-98 and 405-99. It is unknown who may be posting the property. Mr. Mitchell would like to mark the boundaries of the property and reported that in 2015 he and volunteer Greg Doane had located three of the four boundaries. Serita Frey will inform Mr. Mitchell of any volunteers who want to accompany him.

**Phragmites:** Kate Hartnett reported that DCC continues to creep toward progress in managing the known stand of phragmites. Regrettably, another patch of the invasive weed has been detected in town.

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**Regulated Wetlands (Notifications):** Members reviewed the following notifications:

- **Alteration of Terrain** – DES Land Resources Management File #3195  
Joseph Reed – 27 North Rd – Map 210 Lot 54
- **Wetlands Permit Application** – Driveway Crossing  
Scott Sybert – 93 Coffeetown Rd – Map 408 Lot 16

Given the nature and extent of the disturbed area on the Sybert property, **Kate Hartnett and Erick Berglund will make a site visit to determine the potential impacts.** Ms. Hartnett will communicate their findings/recommendations to the DES within the allotted 14 day response period.

**Announcements and Correspondence:** DCC received the following correspondence:

**Annual 2016 Lakes Congress hosted by New Hampshire Lakes** to be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Meredith. Details can be found at <https://nhlakes.org/events/lakes-congress/>

Serita Frey read a memo from Mark Tibbets outlining **procedures to be followed upon hearing a fire alarm** while at the G.B. White or other town buildings.

Chair Frey adjourned the meeting at 9:01 pm.

**The Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 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*