



Derry Conservation Commission
14 Manning St
Derry, NH 03038

Minutes of Public Meeting April 12, 2021

On April 12, 2021, the Derry Conservation Commission met at the Derry Municipal Center, 3rd floor meeting room at 7:00 pm. The following members were present in person: James Degnan (Chair), Eileen Chabot, Margaret Ives, William Lowenthal; Alternate, Bob Boonstra and Alternate, Mariel Capulli. The following members participated via Zoom for discussion only as they are not sworn in yet: Robert Spoerl and Alternate, Justin Mitchell. Ric Buzzanga and Grace Reisdorf were absent. Bob Boonstra sat for Ric Buzzanga. Mariel Capulli sat for Grace Reisdorf. Chair noted that Ruth Robinson is absent tonight and requested a member to record the Minutes of tonight's meeting. Eileen Chabot volunteered.

Approval of Minutes:

William Lowenthal made a motion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2021 as written. Bob Boonstra seconded the motion. Margaret Ives and Mariel Capulli abstained. All others were in favor. Motion carried.

Chair's Report, Correspondence & Bills:

LCHIP sent DCC a letter dated March 26, 2021 with a \$300.00 check acknowledging receipt of a timely 2020 monitoring report for the Corneliussen West farmland. The letter also contained a reminder to DCC to submit its next monitoring report not later than December 31, 2021, and thanked DCC for its responsible oversight of this property.

The 2021 Earth Day Community Wide Clean-up is taking place the week of April 17-25, 2021. This year it is being sponsored by Derry Parks and Recreation. The DCC, Derry Garden Club and Derry Transfer Station are co-sponsors. The public can participate by filling out a free online registration form at: <https://www.derrynh.org/parks-recreation/news/earth-day-derry> and can pick up blue trash bags at the Derry Parks and Rec office at 31 West Broadway, Monday-Friday 9am-4pm. Call 603-432-6136 when you've completed your litter pickup to let us know where to pick up your bags. Participants are encouraged to take photos of their clean-up efforts and post them (with hashtag #earthdayderry) to: @derryrecnh on Facebook to compete for a prize. Only one prize will be awarded. The winner of the prize will be notified via Facebook DM by Friday, April 30th.

The Household Hazardous Waste Day for Derry and Londonderry residents will be held Saturday May 15, 2021 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the West Running Brook Middle School. There is a list of items that can and cannot be disposed of posted in the libraries and at the Derry Municipal Center.

DES

26 Coles Grove Rd. Tax Map 51/Lot 17 – The letter, dated March 18, 2021 is in reference to a request to the Applicant for more information on Shoreland Permit Application 2021-00297; noting that item #4 of the initial March 8, 2021 request letter has not been fully addressed. Revised plans that address RSA 483-B:9, V(g)(3), or that show there will be a reduction of impervious surfaces must be submitted to DES not later than May 7, 2021. Rosemary Aures is the Shoreland Specialist working on this.

4 Escumbit Island, Tax Map 16/Lot 63 - The letter, dated March 23, 2021 is in reference to receipt of Shoreland Permit Application 2021-00705, noting that the Application will be reviewed in accordance with timeframes established under RSA 483-B:5-b, V, and the status is available on OneStop @ <https://www4.des.state.nh.us/lrmonestop/>. Brandy Holmes is the Shoreland Specialist working on this.

680 Route 121, Tax Map 13/Lot 19 - The letter, dated March 30, 2021 is in reference to DES's review of an Expedited Minimum Impact Permit Application 2021-00285. Chair noted this project is close to Cole Marsh and this is an update to a prior approval. More information is required for DES to complete it's evaluation of the application pursuant to RSA 482-A:3, XIV(a)(2) and Rules Env-Wt 100 through 900, and this information must be submitted not later than May 29, 2021 or the application will be denied unless an extension of time is requested. 6 required items were referenced in detail. Seta Detzel is the Wetlands Specialist working on this.

Denali Estate Project Update – 15 Forest St. Tax Map 11/ Lot 59 – The letter, dated March 4, 2021 is in reference to DES's review of the Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application 2021-00052. DCC has reviewed the plan and previously conducted a site walk. DCC had many comments on the project and the minutes of the January 25, 2021 DCC meeting were furnished to the DES and the applicant, Mr. Lannan. DES is continuing to work with the landowner. More information is required for DES to complete it's evaluation of the application pursuant to RSA 482-A:3, XIV(a)(2) and Rules Env-Wt 100 through 900, and this information must be submitted not later than May 3, 2021 or the application will be denied unless an extension of time is requested. 18 required items were referenced in detail. Seta Detzel is the Wetlands Specialist working on this. Chair thanked Seta Detzel for her work on this and incorporation of DCC's comments.

Officer Elections

Chair noted that Ric Buzzanga and Grace Reisdorf were unable to attend tonight's meeting and tonight will be limited to a discussion-- voting will be postponed to the next meeting to formalize it. DCC Chair James Degnan noted that he has had many conversations since the last meeting regarding his previous decision to step away from the Chair position due to his new job, and to provide stewardship moving forward he would like to continue serving as Chair for one year, while allowing other DCC members to assist with Site Plan reviews, review paperwork beforehand and lead conversation with applicants. His term as a Commission member expires on March 31st, 2022. Ric Buzzanga has expressed willingness to continue as Vice Chair. Will Lowenthal would like to serve as Treasurer. Chair noted that Ruth Robinson has retired from the position of Secretary. DCC members

agreed that the Chair should speak with the Town to see if someone from the Town staff would be willing to record minutes for the DCC. The staff member can fulfill this role from home by watching the recorded meeting. If no one from the Town staff is available, the DCC will elect a member to serve as Secretary and record the minutes. A suggestion was made to cut back on the detail provided in the minutes to make this an easier task.

All DCC members present were in unanimous agreement on the proposed slate of Officers and a vote will be taken at the next meeting.

Discussion of Haying at Broadview Farm

The DCC invested last year in mowing of the fields at Broadview, and they look great. Now an Action Plan is needed moving forward to keep them maintained. Field of Dreams, the company who mowed the fields made a recommendation of haying the field rather than mowing it annually. Chair noted that he has exchanged correspondence with a local farmer in Chester who has done work on the Hannah Martin parcel and is interested in haying the field twice annually – once before June 1st and then again at the end of the season.

Matt Tarr's report to the DCC commented that the best options for wildlife would be "Not mowing prior to August 1st" which would keep the habitat quite robust. DCC members discussed benefits of haying to the Town, potential impacts to grassland birds (including bobolinks) if the fields were to be hayed twice per year, having an agreement that would allow for tilling of the Broadview community gardens by May 15th, contents of the original agreement for haying the fields, the timing and frequency of haying, maintaining the meadow characteristics of the property, potential negotiation of haying only once per year, and whether mowing of the fields every 3 to 5 years might be a better option. Chair noted the DCC members had previously preferred no activity until after August 15th to allow for nesting of grassland birds. Issues with haying it twice per year include: 1) access for equipment (3.5 feet is too short); access would need to be widened to 16 feet, 2) Need to chisel rocks to prevent damage to equipment, 3) problems working around bird nest boxes and 4) Restricting access to the public twice per year while haying is conducted (for safety reasons). If the DCC ultimately decides not to hay the fields, a mowing plan needs to be prepared and officially formalized for the long-term management of the property.

William Lowenthal will reach out to Matt Tarr to get an update and confirm if bobolinks are nesting. Chair will coordinate with the Chester farmer to arrange a Site Visit for DCC members at Broadview within the next two weeks to discuss these options further. DCC will re-check the details of the original agreement.

Update – Other Conservation Activities

Chair noted ticks are out and urged the public to protect themselves when visiting Broadview Farm.

Three NHACC Handbooks need to be ordered for: Bob Boonstra, Bob Spoerl and Mariel Capulli. The prices for Member commissioners are \$15/copy, \$18 to mail; and are \$27/copy and \$30 to mail for Non-member commissioners. Eileen Chabot made a motion to buy 3 copies of the NHACC Handbook shipped at \$30.00 each, totaling \$90.00 from the Administrative Account; seconded by Margaret Ives. All were in favor. Chair noted the NHACC is a great resource, especially for new members. Members can sign up

for an account at nhacc.org. NHACC also offers links to DES and UNH Cooperative Extension and Legislative Updates on bills, and public hearings affecting conservation and wildlife. Zoom meetings on Rockingham County are offered on interesting topics but are on the same evenings as the DCC's meetings.

DCC discussed if copies of the Derry Zoning Regulations were given to members. It was noted they are available online.

Other Business:

Margaret Ives noted she had spoken with Arthur Caras. A proposal was made to rename the DCC's Doolittle property on Faith Drive as "The Doolittle/Caras Property". This property was originally owned by Arthur and Diane Caras and was harvested last year by forester Charlie Moreno. It was noted that Arthur and Diane have contributed to this area and monitor it. The DCC has a conservation easement on this property and discussed the need to review the legal documents naming the property (SELT easement documents) before a vote is taken on this proposal. Margaret Ives will reach out to Deb Goard at SELT to check on the legal documents.

Stewardship Training is needed for all DCC Land Stewards. A point-of-contact for a new potential land steward was recently given to Margaret Ives. In order to be a DCC land steward, you must monitor the property. If the property has been abused, the property must be cleaned up. DCC will offer Land Steward training on May 8th at 10:00 am at the Broadview Farm property to include a review of the Stewardship Monitoring Form used by the DCC, and a field trip on how to conduct monitoring. Chair and Margaret Ives will review the current list of DCC Land Stewards, and after this list is verified, Chair will reach out to all the Land Stewards regarding the upcoming training.

Margaret Ives checked with the Reference Librarian, Sue Brown, regarding Derry Public Library sponsoring another Sky Night event, in coordination with the NH Astronomy Society. A night with no full moon will need to be chosen so the stars will be most visible. DCC discussed having the event at Broadview Farm. No date has been selected yet; this will be decided at a future DCC meeting.

DCC offered special thanks to Ruth Robinson for her 10 years of service, devotion and support to the Commission as Secretary. In appreciation, she will be given a Derry Conservation Commission t-shirt. DCC members also expressed thanks to Paul Dionne for his many years of excellent service to the Commission since its inception, his expert knowledge, and his stewardship of DCC properties.

DCC meeting agendas and minutes are sent out from derryconservation@gmail.com. If anyone wishes to promote an event it can be sent to that e-mail address.

The public was reminded to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Trailfinder has good maps of Derry Conservation trails.

Broadview Community Gardens Update

There was a great response by gardeners on April 1st, and only 2 garden plots are still available. If anyone wishes to have a garden plot, they can send an e-mail to broadviewgardening@gmail.com.

William Lowenthal recently completed a 5-week UNH Invasives Academy course. For his proposed project, he has chosen to work on the Doolittle property. Work would entail: 1) enlisting support of a Rockingham County Forester to work with DCC on the recently logged Doolittle property to look for invasive plants, 2) employing EDRR (Early Detection, Rapid Response) in order to have this property grown up with native plants, not invasive species, 3) conducting a foot by foot examination of the property by GPS (this will take at least 2 DCC members, 4) walking the property in May or June with the master map and prepare a report of findings and 5) conducting Outreach at Derryfest to handout information on invasive plants.

Adjournment:

William Lowenthal made a motion to adjourn. Margaret Ives seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Recorder / Eileen Chabot