



Derry Conservation Commission
14 Manning St
Derry, NH 03038

Minutes of Public Meeting April 26, 2021

On April 26, 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, William Lowenthal and Alternate, Bob Boonstra. The following members participated via Zoom: Robert Spoerl. Ric Buzzanga attempted, but was unable to connect via Zoom. Margaret Ives, Grace Reisdorf, Justin Mitchell (Alternate) and Mariel Capulli (Alternate) were also absent. Bob Boonstra sat for Grace Reisdorf. Chair requested that Eileen Chabot record the Minutes of tonight's meeting. He will ask the Town if a staff person would be available to be a Recording Clerk for future DCC meetings.

Approval of Minutes:

Chair thanked Eileen Chabot for recording the minutes of the April 12th DCC meeting. William Lowenthal made a motion to approve the minutes of April 12, 2021 as written. Bob Boonstra seconded the motion. Eileen Chabot abstained. All others were in favor. Motion carried.

Chair's Report, Correspondence & Bills:

NH Timberland Owners Association (NHTOA) – upcoming course on “2021 Women Woodland Owners – Chainsaw Safety” will be offered on June 5-6, 2021, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm each day at the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, 54 Portsmouth St, Concord, NH. Limited to 15 participants. For more information and to pre-register, call the NHTOA office at (603) 224-9699. Cost is \$125.00 for a NHTOA Member and \$150.00 for a Non-Member.

NH Timberland Owners Association (NHTOA) – upcoming course on “2021 Women Woodland Owners – Logging with Farm Tractors – Getting Started” will be offered on June 19, 2021, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm at 2325 River Rd, Bridgewater, NH. Limited to 20 participants. For more information and to pre-register, call the NHTOA office at (603) 224-9699. Cost is \$15.00 for a NHTOA Member and \$25.00 for a Non-Member.

24 North Shore Drive - An Abutter Notification for a Shoreland Permit Application to be filed with NH DES was received by Certified Mail (dated April 16, 2020) from Gregsak & Sons, Inc. of Chester, NH for a pending filing of a Shoreland Permit Application for Derek Scheer & Kate Woodford. This application has not arrived yet in DCC's inbox.

4 Escumbit Island, Tax Map 16/Lot 63 - Shoreland Impact Permit 2021-00705 was approved and issued by DES on April 15, 2021 with 12 conditions, and was found to meet or exceed the requirements of RSA 483-B as required per RSA-B:6, II. The permit allows the impact of 868 square feet of protected shoreland in order to construct a 12' x 15' kitchen addition with a 6' x 8' nook, 20" x 20' shed, and a 12' x 20' deck partially over existing slate patio. The expiration date of this permit is April 15, 2026. Craig Day, Shoreland Specialist is the approver for this Permit.

63 Conley's Grove Rd. Tax Map 16/Lot 55 – The letter, dated April 19, 2021 is in reference to an Expedited Minimum Impact Wetlands Application (NHDES File Number 2021-01160) for a proposed 4' x 24' (temporary) seasonal dock. This application was determined to be Administratively Incomplete, as it did not include minimum information required under RSA 482-A and Rules Env-Wt 100-900 for NHDES technical review. The following information was missing: Results and identification number of the Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) DataCheck (Env-Wt 310.01(b)(8)). This information must be submitted within 20 days of the date of this notice or the application will be denied. Linda Lester is the Application Receipt Center clerk working on this. Copies of this Application were filed with the Derry Town Clerk and the DCC on April 12, 2021.

11 North Shore Rd. Tax Map 56/Lot 33- A Wetlands Permit by Notification (PBN) (per RSA 482-A/ Env-Wt 100-900) was filed with the Derry Town Clerk on April 16, 2021 for the installation of a new seasonal dock (no dimensions given). According to the application, this will permanently impact 96 square feet of forested wetland on Beaver Lake.

Officer Elections

Chair noted that the Election of Officers has been postponed until the next meeting. A formalized vote will be taken at that time for Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer. Chair will ask Town for a Recording Clerk.

Other Conservation Activities

Webber Town Forest - Chair noted that he received a call regarding damage to the footbridge at Webber Town Forest. Chair thanked the abutter to Webber Town Forest for bringing the damaged footbridge to the DCC's attention. Upon his inspection, a 50' – 60' span was found to be damaged; one section was missing and three (3) 2' x 6' board sections were rotted. He purchased three new 2' x 6' boards and made a concerted effort to repair that section of the bridge that weekend. Approximately 91" were removed, new lumber was installed, and this bridge has been fully repaired. This area comes off the Rockingham Rec Trail (main entrance is on Drew Road) and although it is posted "No ATVs", six ATV operators were observed driving into this area, and were issued tickets by NH Fish and Game Conservation Officers who were present. It seemed like the ATVs may have exacerbated the damage. This is being taken seriously and NH Fish and Game is monitoring. Chair encourages the public to go out and enjoy the Webber Town Forest but please don't bring ATVs out there. If you see anyone with an ATV on the property, politely remind them that no ATVs are allowed on Webber Town Forest land.

Chair (James Degnan) submitted receipts for \$89.82 for materials purchased to repair footbridge. William Lowenthal made a motion to reimburse James Degnan in the amount of \$89.82, to be taken from the Land Management account, seconded by Bob Boonstra. Chair abstained. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Cole Marsh – An original Scout bridge on the back side of the marsh that contains PVC piping needs repair. Chair will measure it this weekend for the repairs, and make sure the guardrails are protected. It was noted that stronger materials than PVC will be needed to repair this bridge.

2021 Earth Day Community Wide Clean-up Week - Chair noted this event was very successful and showed lots of community engagement. Tons of blue bags were all over Town. Thanks were given to Derry Parks and Rec and the Derry Garden Club for co-sponsoring this event. William Lowenthal noted he cleaned English Range Road to Route 102 and collected 23 bags of discarded trash. Chair will attempt to get a final count of the number of bags utilized for the cleanup.

NHACC Handbooks – Eileen Chabot shared new information on the status of the NHACC Handbook. The current Handbook is very outdated and there is a new updated handbook that is expected to be issued very soon, possibly online. Chair will check with Barbara Richter, NHACC Executive Director to find out when the new Handbooks will be ready, and if soon, DCC will wait for the new Handbook before placing orders.

Derry Zoning Regulations - A copy of the zoning regulations was given to William Lowenthal.

Haying at Broadview Farm

A Site Visit (DCC members only) will be conducted with Bob Pepper (Chester farmer) at Broadview Farm on Thursday, April 29th at 5:00 p.m. to review proposed haying plans.

Other Business:

Status of Proposal to rename the DCC's Doolittle property on Faith Drive – Chair has discussed this with SELT. There is nothing definitive yet. DCC will be updated as soon as definitive information is received, and a vote will be taken at that time.

DCC Land Steward training - Chair has reviewed the Land Steward list received from Margaret Ives. The previously proposed date of May 8th for this training will not be a good date due to Mother's Day weekend, and not knowing if new Stewards will need to be on-boarded; so this training will be postponed to a future date to be determined. Chair has sent information to all the existing Land Stewards asking them for the properties they wish to monitor, as well as outreach to new Land Steward applicants. Once that list is finalized, a new date will be chosen for the training. He has also reviewed the form provided by Margaret Ives – it will work well.

37 Maple St – Lot 29-127 - William Lowenthal shared that he recently observed a significant infestation of the prohibited invasive plant Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) on this vacant land (0.77 ac) owned by Eversource Energy. He noted the parcel also has a small amount of frontage on North High St. Much of the land is shoreline of the spillway of Hood Dam. He shared a photo of the property taken in 2017 by Google Earth, contrasted with several recent photos he took of what this property looks like today. A fact sheet on Japanese Knotweed can be found here:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/234/51087/knotweed_BCP_372280_7.pdf

This noxious plant is notoriously difficult to control, especially along waterways where parts of the plant can break off and cause infestations downstream.

Chair will reach out to Lindsay White at Eversource to find out if they have a point-of-contact who can prepare an invasives removal plan to eradicate the Japanese Knotweed infestation. He will also reach out to UNH Cooperative Extension on this. Chair also provided William Lowenthal with the NHDES contact for managing invasives in water resource areas (ex. Hood Pond): Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov

Bob Spoerl also shared a method from Doug Cygan (NH Dept. of Agriculture) that could be used to treat this area without the use of chemical herbicides.

Correspondence from Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD)– RCCD sent DCC a letter asking if we would like the current 2021 grant extended for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) at the Derry Transfer Station. DCC responded yes. There was also information provided regarding an Invasive Plant ID Day that DCC can participate in. Chair thanked Tracy Degnan at RCCD (no relation to James Degnan, DCC Chair) for the grant extension. Chair asked the public not to bring invasives to the Transfer Station and put them in the brush pile, as this can cause spread. Per NH law, Invasive Plants cannot be transported.

Grinnell Farm Easement – Bob Spoerl noted the gate is down at the trail to this property. Chair noted that Eileen Chabot previously notified him of this on 4/17. Chair has been in touch with Alan Grinnell, who needed to go in there recently to prepare the field for haying. Gate is expected to be back up shortly. Improvements were made to the trail access and fallen trees were removed. DCC noted that the gate being down makes this property vulnerable to dumping, and the trail extends all the way to the Robert Frost property. Chair will verify if there are any remaining issues with this property.

Derry Garden Club Talk - William Lowenthal noted the Derry Garden Club has requested the DCC to give a talk at an upcoming Derry Garden Club meeting on July 9th at 5:00 pm at Broadview Farm. He volunteered to present a talk on invasive plant species and to give a general description and overview of Derry's conservation lands. The club has also requested to use the fire pit at Broadview for this meeting. Bob Boonstra made a motion that William Lowenthal be the DCC representative for this talk, and that the Derry Garden Club be allowed to use the fire pit at Broadview on July 9th; seconded by Eileen Chabot. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Broadview Community Gardens Update

All 30 garden plots are now reserved. If anyone else wishes to have a garden plot, they can get on the waiting list by sending an e-mail to broadviewgardening@gmail.com. Chair asked if there is a plan if any gardeners that have signed up abandon their plots. William Lowenthal noted there are rules in place for reassignment of plots. If plots are not used within 10 days of opening the garden (or Will has not been contacted), or if they are abandoned in mid-summer, they are re-assigned. Gardeners must keep their plot as "weed free" as possible.

Adjournment:

William Lowenthal made a motion to adjourn. Eileen Chabot seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Recorder / Eileen Chabot