



Derry Conservation Commission  
14 Manning St  
Derry, NH 03038

### **Minutes of Public Meeting February 22, 2021**

In response to the State of Emergency in New Hampshire regarding COVID-19, regular Public Meetings of the Town of Derry will be held via remote conference call until further notice. The Derry Municipal Center Meeting Room will be closed to the public.

On February 22, 2021 the Derry Conservation Commission met at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The following members were present: James Degnan, Chair, Ric Buzzanga, Eileen Chabot, William Lowenthal, Grace Reisdorf, Robert Spoerl, Alternates, Justin Mitchell and Bob Boonstra. Margaret Ives and Alternate, Paul Dionne were absent. Justin Mitchell sat for Margaret Ives.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Robert Spoerl made a motion to approve the minutes of January 25, 2021. Bob Boonstra seconded the motion. All others were in favor. Motion carried.

### **Chair's Report, Correspondence & Bills:**

Chair, James Degnan has received an Email from Administrative Secretary, Sheila Bodenrader reminding Conservation Commission members that some of the members terms will be expiring on March 31, 2021. The members with terms expiring are Grace Reisdorf, Robert Spoerl, William Lowenthal, Paul Dionne and Justin Mitchell. Expiring term members were asked to email the Chair if they would like to be re-appointed. They will also need to fill out the volunteer application form on the Derry website. Any other interested citizens who would like to join the Derry Conservation Commission or any other town board can also apply using the form on the website.

A notice has been received from the New Hampshire Fish & Game regarding a postponed in-person workshop for their "Trails for People and Wildlife Project". There is a posted webinar discussing the project on [wildnh.com/trail](http://wildnh.com/trail).

### **DES:**

*84 Island Pond Rd* – Tax Map 6/ Lot 17 – This was a letter documented and sent by Compliance Specialist, Neil Bilodeau. It was found that according to an October 26, 2020 review, personnel at NHDES found that there was approximately 10,000 sq. ft. of forested wetlands that have been impacted as a

result of unauthorized filling. This letter also serves the landowner notification. They have been found to be in deficient without appropriate permit.

The following steps are requested by DES:

1. To obtain a Certified Wetland Scientist by March 1, 2021.
2. To submit a restoration plan, by April 12, 2021.

Chair will have the plan if any members want to further view the details.

*680 Route 121, Derry -Tax Map 13/Lot 19-* This is a notice of an Expedited Minimum Impact permit submitted by Brian Bailey & Associates, doing business as Turning Point Land Surveyors. This project is for a crossing. The property is located between two Conservation properties creating direct abutters to the parcel. Chair has requested a site walk of the area and to possibly have a plan presentation to the commission. DES accepted the permit with the caveat that DCC **did not** sign off on giving up any right to provide comments etc.

These type of Expedited Minimum Impact permits move through the approval process at DES quickly. There was some discussion leading up to the result, that If there are any protocols in an Expedited permit that are related directly to the Derry Conservation Commission, then DCC would like to be notified by DES at an earlier point in time during the approval process. DCC would like to have enough time to review the plan and make comments before it is too late and the plan gets approved. DCC will compose a letter to the DES Application Receipt Center Contact Person for this project, Rumi Shrestha. DCC will also send an email to the LRM at DES, the generic inbox as well, stating that the Derry Conservation Commission would like to have the ability to intervene on the application.

*Daniel Rd subdivision update* - Alteration of Terrain permit. Chair has received an email response on the Denali Estate Plan. DCC had many comments when previously viewing the plan on the blasting, vernal pools documentation, etc. These comments and details are now being worked on. Updates should be forthcoming.

Some correspondence has been received from Marghi Beane. There is a video recording available of a program hosted by the Pollinator Pathways of NH and the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions that can be shared to the commission members by DCC Chair, via email. The program contains information and links to documents on NH native trees, shrubs and vines, native plants that attract pollinators and an article by Doug Callamy on "What Insects and Plants Prioritize and Why". Anyone from the public looking for information on garden pollinators can research the UNH Cooperative Extension, the Native Plant Trust sites or Google Doug Callamy to view the article he has written.

#### **Derry Conservation Workshop/Planning Outline of activities for 2021:**

Some of the Conservation Commission's activities were unable to be carried out last year (2020) due to the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic. As of this time in (2021) some COVID-19 restrictions are still in place. Mask wearing is still required, a 6-foot social distancing and no large gatherings. Vaccinations sites have been set up and vaccines are now being given out.

*Town Wide Cleanup* - The spring and fall town wide cleanups are activities that were not carried out last year (2020). A cleanup is much needed now. There was discussion as to whether to hold one or two

cleanups or just have one in the fall. After discussion, it was decided to hold a spring cleanup, but to hold it in the late part of spring, around Memorial Day in May. Typically, the event is held in April around Earth Day. A much smaller scale event needs to be sought after this year with all the safety precautions in place. Once the spring cleanup is done and all is well, a possible fall cleanup date will be determined. There will be more discussion to follow up on this.

*Land Stewards* – Chair will send an email to all the active Land Stewards with the newly refined changes made that had been previously worked on by the commission. The Commission also agreed this evening to have the Land Stewards hand in a written report on their specific area twice a year instead of once. DCC also wanted to have the Land Stewards present in person to the Commission once a year, but that may have to be waived due to COVID- 19 restrictions or it could be presented via Zoom.

*Broadview Haying and Tilling*– Chair, James Degnan and William Lowenthal will set up a meeting with Bob Tepper to discuss further haying of Broadview and for the tilling of the gardens. The tilling would be best done by May 15th. Chair will try to set up the meeting with Bob Tepper around the middle of April.

*Broadview Garden Online Registration* – There had been previous discussion on work that needs to be done to the registration plot map on the website, so that gardeners can register online. The target date to have this completed by is the second or third week in April.

*Compost Bins at Broadview Gardens* – There was discussion on building new compost bins for the gardens and set them up in a different area from where there are located now at the gardens. Should they be built on or off site? It was decided to create a plan and put a materials list together for now and come back to this.

*Conservation Walks* - Forester, Charlie Moreno had offered in the past to come walk and talk about the Doolittle property. The timber harvest was done two years ago. Showing what the conditions are now after the harvest, would be an interesting walk to film. With COVID-19, restrictions, can the walks be introduced safely? A suggestion was made to try to do one of them before June. Chair will reach out to Charlie Moreno to see when he is available.

Grace Reisdorf recently walked the Londonderry Conservation Musquash area with COVID-19 restrictions in place. She shared her experience with DCC. The walk was well conducted and informative. By conducting this walk, Londonderry is showing to their residents how to appreciate and use the land. It's a good example of showing the residents how Londonderry is using some of its tax revenue. A suggestion was made to possibly do a similar event in Derry and to film the walk and make a video to show residents that are unable to get out there physically. The video could also be used to inform people of the nice conservation properties and possibly get more citizens interested in exploring the Derry Conservation properties on their own. The idea of filming a walk had been on a project list in the past and should be looked into.

There is still more GIS mapping of the properties to be done. The goal is to have them all mapped by the end of the year.

Other events like the star gazing evening, etc. are now put on pause. It is most important right now to keep people safe during this pandemic. Events can be added into the calendar as time goes on this year.

#### **Update on Conservation Activates:**

William Lowenthal has applied and has been accepted to attend a class at UNH Cooperative Extension. William is submitting a receipt of his payment this evening. The course teaches tools for creating a technique on how to reach out to the public in educating them on Invasive Species. The course will begin in mid-March. The cost of the program is \$35.00.

***Eileen Chabot made a motion to re-imburse William Lowenthal \$35.00 for the cost of attending the New Hampshire Invasive Academy 2021. The money will be taken from the Administrative account. Bob Boonstra seconded the motion. All were in favor. motion carried.***

DCC members were informed that the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions newsletter for February contains a lot of opportunities for grants that are available.

#### **Adjournment:**

Ric Buzzanga made a motion to adjourn. Robert Spoerl seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Recording Clerk/ Ruth Robinson