



Derry Conservation Commission
14 Manning St
Derry, NH 03038

Update on COVID-19:

July 2020. The COVID-19 Global Pandemic is still active. The amount of cases is lessening in the state of NH. The Derry Municipal Center is now open to the public along with other town buildings. Modifications have been made to the customer service windows at the Town Clerk and Tax Collector to comply with the Covid-19 restrictions. A six-foot social distancing order is still in place. Businesses and restaurants in town have re-opened with restrictions. The public as of July 6th was allowed to attend public meetings. The Conservation Commission and some other Boards are still holding meetings virtually.

Minutes of Public Meeting July 13, 2020

On July 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm, the Derry Conservation Commission met virtually online via Zoom. The following members were present online. Chair, James Degnan, Ric Buzzanga, William Lowenthal, Grace Reisdorf, Robert Spoerl and Bob Boonstra. Eileen Chabot is on a phone call-in this evening and Recording Clerk, Ruth Robinson is recording the meeting from her home. Member, Margaret Ives, Alternates, Paul Dionne and Justin Mitchell were absent. Bob Boonstra sat for Margaret Ives.

Approval of Minutes:

Grace Reisdorf made a motion to approve the minutes of June 8, 2019. Bob Boonstra seconded the motion. Robert Spoerl abstained. All others were in favor. Motion carried.

Chair's Report, Correspondence & Bills:

South East Land Trust - The commission has received a letter from Deb Gord and the team at the South East Land Trust, celebrating their partnership with the Derry Conservation Commission and SELT. The celebration is for the following properties:

Caras Property – 3 years in July 2020

Corneliusen Property – 18 years in August 2020

Shepard Property - 20 years in October 2020

The South East Land Trust has also sent notification to DCC that they have been in Derry doing some monitoring recently. SELT did not observe anything out of the ordinary on two of the properties that had previously been monitored by DCC. Cassandra Pearl will no longer be Derry's Land Steward from SELT. A follow up will be done on who the next Land Steward for Derry will be.

The New Hampshire Tree Farm Program requires a report on the status of the forests in town. This must be done every 6 years. Chair, James Degnan will contact Forester, Charlie Moreno on this.

Pinkerton Site Walk Update – DCC had previously done a site walk at Pinkerton Academy for a proposed athletic field. The Department of Environmental Services is working on some issues. The project is on hold as far as a final approval by DCC at this point.

Update on Conservation Activities:

Broadview Farm Mowing Finalization Plan and Update - There had been previous discussion with David Ahearn of Field of Dreams Reclamation LLC. and a site walk has been done. It was determined that the mowing process should be done earlier than in the past, preferably in the first part of August. A tentative date of the week of August 3rd 2020 was selected but not finalized. The area will have to be shut down temporarily for the mowing process. The public needs to be advised of the shutdown. The town sign board will be utilized to help inform the public. The Derry News and the Nutfield news will be contacted. Social media will also be used to get the word of closure out to the public. Aerial drone photos of Broadview, courtesy of William Lowenthal, of the mowing paths and sections of the field were shown this evening. The entrance in the front of the property where there is a lot of growth, will be a major focus for the clean-up. Then it is on to the broader sections of the field and then onto the back portion. Once the initial mowing is complete, over a five-year span, the area will be assessed and mowed as necessary per quadrant. The goal is to improve the habitat in the area. The whole field will not be mowed every year. The large Oak tree on the property was clearly visible in the drone photos. Recent work had been done to clear all the Bittersweet, brush, etc. away from the area around the large Oak tree. Chair would like to have Forester, Charlie Moreno come out to assess the health of the tree and to give advice of its care going forward. There was talk of installing a sign near the tree asking visitors not to climb the tree. Another sign to describe some history on the tree.

Broadview Gardens – The gardens are in great shape. Rabbits and rodents are an issue to the gardeners this year, causing one gardener to walk away. That gardener's plots were up for grabs to the other gardeners, but there were no takers.

DCC is now back in possession of its pop-up event tent and its weed wrenches. They were being stored by a former commission member in an off-site storage area.

Other Business:

The Fish & Game and the US Wildlife Service has announced that Hemorrhagic Fever in rabbits has made its way into the United States. The public was advised to double bag any dead rabbits if found. The Fish & Game website has guidelines listed for their disposal.

The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions – Last year the process of how each community's annual dues were calculated, was questioned. William Lowenthal attended last year's (2019) NHACC meeting to look into this. Through Will's attendance at the meeting and the presentation that he gave, the NHACC was receptive, went over the facts and agreed to reduce the Derry Conservation annual dues by \$200.00. This year's dues is \$1075.00. The \$200.00 deduction will not apply

until next year's billing (2021).

Robert Spoerl made a motion to pay the NHACC bill, invoice # 901, for annual dues in the amount of \$1075.00, to be taken from the Administrative account. Ric Buzzanga seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Trailfinders Update – The first 3 Conservation parcels that have been mapped will soon be published on the Trail finders app. By the end of the year it is proposed to have all the parcels fully mapped and featured on the Trailfinders app. Users will have a chance to relay comments and photos to DCC through the app and obtain other useful features like photos, maps, recording their usage, etc.

Matt Tarr of the UNH Cooperative Extension recently produced a video on the Broadview property. The video has received much praise from the commission members. A suggestion was made to make the video available to the public.

The VFW of Derry recently held another flag burning ceremony at Broadview. The event was well attended. The area was left in very clean condition. Thanks, were given to the group for their service and for having respect for the area.

Shepard – A scheduling error occurred for the mowing process. Half of the Shepard grassy area had been mowed too early. When discovered, the mowing process was halted before completion. The field is scheduled to be mowed in late August.

Adjournment:

Ric Buzzanga made a motion to adjourn. Grace Reisdorf seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Recording Clerk/ Ruth Robinson