

DCC Minutes of September 9, 2019



Derry Conservation Commission
14 Manning St
Derry, NH 03038

Minutes of Public Meeting September 23, 2019

On September 23, 2019 at 7:00 pm, the Derry Conservation Commission was called to order in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Derry Municipal Center.

The following members were present: Chair, James Degnan, Ric Buzzanga, Eileen Chabot, Margaret Ives, William Lowenthal, Grace Reisdorf, Robert Spoerl and Alternates, Ann Marie Chase and Justin Mitchell. Alternate Paul Dionne was absent.

Approval of Minutes:

After opening the meeting Chairman Degnan tabled approval of the minutes from the meeting of September 9, 2019 pending Recording Clerk Ruth Robinson's return. In her absence, DCC Secretary Grace Reisdorf will record the minutes of this meeting. Many wishes for Ruth's quick and full recovery were expressed by the Commission.

Chair's Report, Correspondence & Bills:

SELT:

A letter was received from SELT regarding the monitoring of many of the current Derry conservation properties including Shepherd Park, the Albert Doolittle Conservation Area, Caras Property and others. They were all good comments, with a note regarding encroachment at Shepherd Park.

NHACC:

Notice regarding the Annual Conference, November 2, 8am-3:30pm at Pembroke Academy. Registration is open.

EPA:

A pamphlet regarding the importance of inspecting and cleaning a septic tank. More information can be found at: epa.gov/septicmart

DES:

DES also produced a pamphlet regarding how to handle autumn leaf management, titled "Rake it or Leave it". The pamphlet offers several important dos and don'ts.

13 Germantown Rd – Tax Map 9/Lot 100 – dock reconstruction.

A reminder was given to the public for the Household Hazardous Waste Day, November 23, from 9:00am until 12:00 noon at the Nelson Field, off Sargent Rd. in Londonderry, NH. A list of what is and isn't hazardous waste can be found on the Town website.

Site Plan Review:

14 Folsom Road Professional Office Park – Tax Map 35/Lot 011-001 – A proposal for an office park with 8 identical 3,600 square foot buildings was presented by Brian Pratt from Fuss and O'Neill. There was concern expressed by the Commission regarding runoff from 3 snow storage areas that were located outside of the parking lot curbing. A redesign is in the works now at the suggestion of the DPW. There was also some concern about a wetlands area that was designated on a previous proposal for this site 10 years prior. Brian explained that the area of concern was tested again in February and the earlier wetland designation was removed. When asked about how this proposal would be affected by the construction of Exit 4A, Brian replied that the driveway will be constructed in a way that satisfies the needs before construction of Exit 4A and easily adjustable when the 4A project is completed.

The Commission stipulated that before the next meeting October 14, the Commission be provided with the following:

- The wetland scientist's report including test pit locations;
- A soil map;
- A key added to the front page of the site plan;
- An improved snow storage area following the suggestions of the Commission;
- A note to the developer that it be made clear to the trash contractor that the trash company is responsible for keeping trash out of the snow storage area located next to the dumpster enclosure;
- A note regarding invasive species removal using the standard language provided by DES;
- And that, before the site walk, flagging delineating the corners of the property and the middle of the back of the property.

With no other questions or comments, a site walk was set for October 10 at 4:30pm.

Update on Conservation Activities:

Jim Degnan remarked that he was pleased to note all the good things happening in Derry starting with Derryfest and Derry After Dark.

Derryfest – Derryfest went well with Commissioners Will Lowenthal, Eileen Chabot and Grace Reisdorf attending to the Conservation Commission booth. Thanks to Ann Marie Chase who volunteered her husband for set up and take down help!

At the booth folks could check out samples of invasive plants and check a poster to see if their property had any of the invasives pictured. Several copies of the *New Hampshire Guide to Upland Invasive*

Species, were distributed to those battling or interested in removing invasives in their yards and neighborhoods. The booklet was produced by the NH Department of Agriculture, and is helpful in identifying and removing invasives.

Maps of the Derry Conservation Lands were also popular.

Go Green provided blue NH the Beautiful trash bags to mark the upcoming Keep Derry Beautiful town-wide clean-up week starting Saturday October 5. Several bags were taken, and people signed up to clean specific areas. More bags are available at the Derry Town Transfer Station. The Nutfield News wrote a nice story promoting clean-up week for which Go Green and the DCC is grateful.

The display, the trash bags and other items at our table sparked some thoughtful and productive conversations.

DCC had two side-by-side Derryfest plots and offered one to the Girl Scouts who proposed a project at a DCC meeting last spring. They displayed their birdhouses, some of which have been installed at Broadview Farm.

More good news – Servpro picked up trash on the Rail Trail, showing community commitment and team spirit among their employees.

Shepard Park Swale Improvement- There has been speculation about the DPW's work in East Derry at Shepherd Park this past week. A very old clay drainage pipe running from East Derry/Hampstead Road into the woods collapsed and was replaced last week. The trench was backfilled and leveled before the area was hayed. Special attention was taken by the work crew to not disturb the milkweed, which is an important food source for monarchs and other insects. The park should be fully restored by next spring. Members of the DCC were surprised by the project and will request prior notification when work is necessary on conservation lands as stated in the town by-laws.

Broadview Farm is in need of trail cleanup, as well as invasive and brush removal. Sumac is overgrown and invasives are climbing up and around the oak tree central to the park. Jim Degnan will be getting a bid for a cleanup via Brontosaurus to help knock back sumac and open all edges of the open field. DPW will be consulted for use of their brontosaurus. Grasses are overgrown as well and need to be hayed; Paul is working on this issue.

Shepard Park Cleanup-Anyone interested in joining Jim and Justin should park at Upper Village Hall before 8:30am for a ride down to the site. The plan is to clean the picnic area and open the trail head on Pond Rd. The Commission will walk stream up to field if there is time as well.

Other Business:

Will Lowenthal suggested that the DCC engage an arborist as a consultant and that the Derry News be informed of any future tree cutting giving the public notification as well as information such as why the harvesting or pruning is needed and what they can expect they're favorite natural areas to look like after completion. Margie Ives mentioned that speaking with Charlie Moreno.

Protocols

At the previous DCC meeting, protocol for checking job sites was discussed. It was brought up that the Commission makes recommendations to the developers. These recommendations are a vital part of the permitting process for approval of the development, yet we don't follow up to see if those provisions are being met. It was questioned: is someone at the town following up on those recommendations; is follow-up part of DCC's job; does the DCC have the authority to be on those sites and report infractions; exactly what is our role after the permit is granted?

Jim Degnan had a conversation with a town code enforcement official and clarifications of the protocol were provided:

- If it is a town project, a review engineer regularly monitors the site. The project manager has to report its intended start date and actual date. DCC can request to be notified of that start date as part of the recommendations.
- If it is a private project, the protocol is the same as public with the town department conducting a review. Again, the DCC can request notification of the start date.

Jim said it comes down to "if you see something, say something." He commented that "the town is there for us and appreciates our calls" when something looks wrong, including making sure our recommendations are being followed, and especially suspected code violations.

Ric Buzzanga commented that DCC members are around on weekends and may see things that occur then that the developers and contractors don't see. He used a weekend snowstorm involving snow removal and drainage as an example. The DCC is grateful for the clarification.

Will Lowenthal requested reimbursement of the NHACC Annual Conference fee (\$60).

In response, Ric Buzzanga moved to reimburse Will Lowenthal in the amount requested of \$60 for his upcoming attendance of the NHACC Annual Conference. Eileen Chabot seconded the motion, which carried with Will abstaining.

With no further business, Ric moved to adjourn. Bob Spoerl seconded the motion, which was unanimously confirmed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Reisdorf, Secretary