

Deering Conservation Commission

762 Deering Center Road

Deering, NH 03244

Draft Minutes for March 11, 2024

Attendance: Gary Samuels, Mike Thomas, Dennis Sawyer, Kay Hartnett, Bob Welsh, Greg Sereni, Tim Finn

Others Present: Glen Clark, Kim Roy, Eric Simon, Brian Stimpson, Gary Smith

Call to order: Meeting called to order, 6:03 pm.

Minutes: Minutes of February 12, 2024 approved.

Correspondence:

None

Old Business

Discussion of DCC display for the town elections on March 12.

Motion that the Deering Conservation Commission approve the expenditure of \$65.50 (\$10.38--Gary, \$55.12—Kay) from the Town Conservation Fund for printing charges related to conservation education consistent with RSA 36-A. Motion—G. Samuels, 2 nd Bob Welsh. Yes, unanimous

New Business

Lake Host Program

Motion that the Deering Conservation Commission approves the expenditure of \$5,600.00 from the EXOTIC WEED EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND for payment to NH Lakes for Lake Host salaries, summer 2024. Motion--G. Samuels, 2 nd K. Hartnett. Yes, Unanimous

Update on The Deering View (Lindquist Conservation Easement)

Eric Simon presented an update on the property that includes the “Deering View” at the intersection of Rt. 149 and Old County Road. Eric and his wife Amanda Marsh purchased the lot years ago to conserve the property and view. The Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) maintains an easement on the property. Eric reported that a new flower box and sign will be installed on the property. Also, there are plans to cut some trees along the edge of the property to maintain the view. Some of these trees are on an adjacent property owned by Continental Cablevision Inc. Eric has thus far been unsuccessful in connecting with someone in the company with authority to facilitate the tree cutting. The DCC was not able to provide advice/assistance on this. Eric also provided an update on the wild flower gardens that they have been developing on the

property. The Simons hired Parker Garden Design to help with this project and after some initial years of successful results invasives are now crowding out the wild flowers. Parker Garden Design has proposed a limited prescribed burn of the field at the top of the property to address this problem. G. Samuels urged contacting the LCIP which holds the easement on the property. Eric also reported that there are plans to create a walking path on the property. The DCC thanked Eric for all that he and Amanda have done to conserve the property. They are truly outstanding stewards of the property. The Deering View is a treasure enjoyed by many who stop by to catch a beautiful sunset or for special occasion group photographs.

Deering Reservoir Water Testing & Private Water Testing Program.

Mike Thomas led a discussion of Deering Reservoir water quality. He noted the rising chloride levels in the lake. There is concern that the road salt in the Highway Department storage barn may be contributing to this. Mike and Gary Smith will conduct water testing in the Reservoir to determine the cause of the rising chloride levels. They will gather baseline data and continue monitoring going forward.

Greg Sereni led a discussion of the private well water testing program. A public presentation is scheduled for Thursday, June 13. G. Samuels will coordinate with town administration. More discussion of the program followed. Also, discussion of promoting the program through the News Messenger, the Deering Lake Improvement Association, social media, town-wide signage and the town website.

Discussion of the need to protect/maintain water quality in the Reservoir and throughout Deering.

Glenn Clark reported that the annual lake water testing will take place in June, July and August of 2024. He will coordinate with the new testing program.

Wood Duck Nesting Box Update

Dennis Sawyer presented an update on the Wood Duck nesting box program. He has 1 box left to check on. 39% of the boxes had evidence of active nesting. More nesting boxes have been installed with a total of 50 being currently maintained by the DCC. A shout-out to Dennis for all of his hard work with this program.

Gregg Hill Nature Preserve Update

Mike Thomas will work with Leon Nelson to arrange for summer mowing.

Membership

The DCC welcomed Brian Stimpson and Gary Smith to tonight's meeting. Both have expressed interest in joining the Conservation Commission.

Reminder

G. Samuels reminded members that the annual Saving Special Places conservation conference is scheduled for April 6.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6 pm, Monday, April 8, 2024 at the Deering Town Hall

Respectfully Submitted: Tim Finn

APPROVED