

Deering Conservation Commission

762 Deering Center Road

Deering, NH 03244

Minutes for 10 August 2020 Meeting

Attendance: Gary Samuels, Kay Hartnett, Mike Thomas, Tim Finn, Dennis Sawyer,

Also present: Glenn Clark, Stacie Hernandez

The meeting was held in town hall parking lot, participants maintaining at least 6 ft distance from each other due to the COVID virus.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Gary Samuels.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 11 May were accepted.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business:

Lake Hosts. Tim Finn reported that Lake Hosts Ryan Gillett and Forest Simon are leaving the program to return to school. One host will continue to the Labor Day end of the program. Tim asked for volunteer Lake hosts to step in. He reported that so far during the season Lake Hosts performed 799 inspections and intercepted one suspicious plant, that turned out not to be an invasive species. We have exceeded our match requirement by about 150% Tim hopes that Ryan Gillett will return to manage the program next year. He further asked others to share the oversight duties next year.

Lake Water Testing. Testing was carried out by Bob Compton and Glenn Clark in June. While the overall report was very good, High Conductivity was observed in Morotta Inle, which is probably related to the ongoing fill operation by the homeowner that is occurring adjacent to the tributary. The water will be tested once more, on 11 August. Samuels reported that lake testing equipment has been ordered but that several items have not yet been delivered. We should be ready with our own equipment for the 2021 season.

Conservation Easement donation report. Town meeting approved Con Comm of donating a conservation easement on the Library Lot (Gregg Hill Lot) and one of the Carew Lots. Piscataquog Land Conservancy will accept the donation pending their own evaluation. Samuels has been informed that the Gregg Hill Lots were purchased with funds (\$208 K) donated by the Tyrell foundation. In accepting the donation, a public meeting of the Select Board was held on 20 July 2005. In accepting the donation, the town agreed to conserve the land and to allow 2 acres for construction of a library.. There has been no progress on the part of the PLC as regards the easement apart from a visit from the PLC Land Protection committee early in the summer.

Trash removal from Hedgehog Mt Rd 1Ac lot. The 2020 Town Meeting approved the donation of a 1 ac lot on Hedgehog Mt Rd to SPNHF. One of the conditions of the agreement is that Deering remove the remains of a camp from the site. Members of DCC will assess the situation on 13 August.

Easement Monitoring. Samuels will send out easements still needing monitoring, with a view to setting up a schedule. He noted that DCC should walk the entire Donovan easement and invite Nancy Donovan to the next meeting to explain forestry that has been going on in the easement this year.

Big Tree Update. The UNH Extension Big Tree team has measured four of Deering trees that were nominated by DCC. The sugar maple on East Deering Rd is a state champion and will be nominated for national listing. The White Ash on Old County Rd is a state co-champion, along with trees in Kensington and Derry. A white oak on Union St is a Hillsborough County champion, as an American basswood in West Deering, along the Contoocook River.

New Business:

Pollinator Garden for the Gregg Hill lot. Samuels noted that local residents Eric Simon and Amanda Marsh were developing pollinator gardens in their easement, known locally as 'The View.' Con Comm was approached by Simon/Marsh in search of financial support, but DCC is unable to contribute to this privately owned enterprise. Samuels suggested to DCC that they develop a pollinator garden on the Gregg Hill Lot. This idea was accepted and Mike Thomas agreed to look into what would be required. Samuels noted that Peterborough Con Comm had developed a pollinator garden and might be a source of information. Deering resident Stacie Hernandez volunteered to work on this project.

Mowing Gregg Hill Lot. DCC was informed that one condition of accepting funds to purchase this lot was that it be mowed. The lot has not been mowed for at least two years. DCC has been told that it is responsible for the mowing and that Town is getting bids for mowing this, and other lots in town. DCC will request that mowing the lot take place after the first killing frost, and possibly not mowing parts of it in ensuing years.

Roadside cleanup. The second cleanup will take place on 3 Oct, in coordination with DLIA

New Com Comm member. New Deering resident Stacie Hernandez indicated her interest in joining DCC. Con comm members voted unanimously to forward her request to BOS for appointment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 by chairman Samuels.

The next meeting will be held on 14 Sept in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Samuels

Deering Conservation Commission

APPROVED