

Deering Conservation Commission

762 Deering Center Road

Deering, NH 03244

Draft Minutes for April 08, 2024

Attendance: Gary Samuels, Mike Thomas, Dennis Sawyer, Kay Hartnett, Greg

Serini

Others Present: Glen Clark, Brian Stimpson

Call to order: Meeting called to order, 6:05 pm.

Minutes: Minutes of March 11, 2024 approved.

Correspondence:

Notice of acceptance re. Alteration of Terrain Bureau Permit application; NHDES File Number 240312-054. A-164 AECOM Structure Replacement Project. No specific lot. This permit application refers to replacement of power poles along Eversource ROW across Deering.

Letter of Compliance. Land Resources Management File Number 2022-03360. 38 Zoske Rd, Tax Map 228 Lot 77. An after the fact Shoreland Impact Permit 2023-01950 to retain the 107 square feet of unpermitted impacts. Observations noted in letter to landowner by NHDES on 18 May 2023 had been addressed and on 21 March 2024 NHDES closed enforcement of file 2022-03360.

Permit by Notification for Tax Map 229 Lot 16, 17. Replacement of a stone wall at 34 Chipmunk Lane. Signed by G. Samuels.

Old Business

Discussion of DCC display for the town elections on March 12. Kay handed out several announcements of the well water testing presentation scheduled for 13 June. It was decided to keep the display in place in the Town Hall Foyer for the immediate future.

Well Water Testing

DCC presentation to DLIA Memorial Day Meeting. Greg Serini will talk about well water pollution and will encourage Lake Residents to attend the meeting scheduled for 13 June when representatives of DES and a private water testing company will discuss well water pollution and will hand out water testing kits to interested residents.

Article for The Messenger. Greg Serini will prepare a 250 word article about the need for testing private wells and the DCC testing program of 13 June. Hopefully this will be published in The Messenger early in June.

Chloride pollution in Deering Lake.

Mike Thoms and Deering resident Gary Smith have identified non-point sources of chloride entering the northeastern end of Deering Lake. This includes unnamed streams that rise above

Deering Center Road and that flow into the lake, an unnamed stream that rises down slope from the Town Salt Storage facility, and drainage downslope from the Salt Storage Facility into a small wetland located a short distance from that lake. Thomas and Smith noted very high concentration of chloride in the wetland along with dead and dying plants. The conclusion is that Town Salt Storage Facility and Highway Department practices, along with State salting of Deering Center Rd (NH Rt 149) contribute significantly to increasing chloride concentration in Deering Lake and adjacent wells. Additional testing was taken immediately following the heavy snowfall of 3, 4 April. When the most recent test results are available, Gary Samuels will prepare a report on the chloride testing that will include recommendations, to be presented to a meeting of BOS. The results suggest a need to relocate the salt storage facility outside of the lake watershed, and the need for DES Green SnoPro Certification by Highway Department to rationalize the use of salt in winter and summer. Conservation Commission notes with dismay the replacement of calcium chloride with magnesium chloride despite strong evidence that MgCl is more ecologically deleterious than CaCl.

There was a discussion of the need to hire a Lake Manager to analyze the carrying capacity of Deering Lake. A manager can prepare a Watershed Management Plan, or analyze individual pollutants such as chloride.

This year VLAP will begin testing lake water in May and will add a deep spot 100 ft off Lake Shore Drive, where an unnamed stream empties into the lake.

Lake Host Program

Elizabeth Labiere has agreed to act as local program manager. Three former Lake Hosts will return for the 2024 season. Elizabeth will interview two possible new Lake Hosts and, depending upon scheduling, will hire one or both.

Duck Box

The Nesting Box program for 2023-24 has concluded. The program now cares for approximately 50 boxes. Jackie Sawyer and Mike Thomas analyzed the usage data, beginning in 1994. This information will be posted on the Conservation Commission site. In the 2023-2024 season, there was approximately 40% usage.

Roadside Cleanup

Town wide roadside cleanup will take place on 4 May. Tim will coordinate with NH DOT for bags and vests. Kay will promote on social media. Gary will arrange with Town for trash removal. Adopt-a-Highway. This will be held on 4 May. Gary will make up a schedule later.

Gregg Hill Pollinator Garden.

Leon Nelson has submitted a quote of \$900 for multiple mowings during the 2024 season. This will be paid for from Town Conservation Fund. Conservation Commission members approved the expenditure of up to \$900 from the Conservation Fund for the mowing.

Membership.

Conservation Commission members endorsed Brian Stimpson for membership of the Commission. This leaves one full member and one alternate position open.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6 pm, Monday, May 13, 2024 at the Deering Town Hall

Respectfully Submitted: Gary Samuels

DRAFT