

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 8, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Brian Ameche at the Durham Public Library.

Members Present: Brian Ameche, Ralph Chase, Casey Cordes, Michael Doyle, Bill LaFlamme, Bob Melvin, Rick Terrill

Approval of April Meeting Minutes: Ralph Chase, seconded by Casey Cordes to approve the April 10, 2007 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with two abstentions.

Amendments to Agenda / Approval of Agenda: Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Ralph Chase to approve the agenda as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Payment of Bills: Bill for \$30 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve the payment of the bill, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Session: none

Request to use Whites Farm – Orville & Wilbur Society – Wednesdays – Lisa Pacelli: The Wilbur & Orville Society is a free flight model airplane club. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve the use of Whites Farm by the Wilbur & Orville Society for the following dates in 2007 from approximately 5PM until sundown: 6/13, 6/27, 7/11, 7/25, 8/8, and 8/22 provided that proof of insurance is provided made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Request to use Whites Farm – TBD: none

Site Development Plan Review - TBD: none

Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions and Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program: Rick Terrill will take the lead again. He has the list of property owners for another mailing. Brian Ameche will prepare the letter. Pam Huntley will assist with preparing the mailing.

Open Space Issues Reports – Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road Gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance, Other: Bill LaFlamme brought a request from people that walk their dogs on Whites Farm to have picnic tables. This has been tried in the past and the picnic tables were stolen and/or vandalized, so the Commission will not place picnic tables there. Brian Ameche and Mike Doyle put up boundary signs on the Mt. Pisgah/Cream Pot Valley property.

Open forum with Property Stewards – Final Roster: Whites Farm – Jack Stahl; Pent Road (Deerfield Farm) – Melynda Naples; Howd Road – Matt Reed; Pisgah Mountain - Andy Golschneider with BSA Troop 27; Creampot Valley – George & Irene Roberts; Curtis Woodlands – Rob Williams; Portion of Wimler Property with Public Access – Dick Porter;

and Sawmill Road – Ray Koba: Jack Stahl reported the license plate number of a vehicle that was running off the road on the Whites Farm property. Ralph Chase passed the information on to Conservation Officer, Joe Ruggiero. If the vehicle is found to be in the local area the owner will be cited for simple trespass. Brian Ameche received a letter from DEP regarding a post completion site inspection of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) programs. All of the Durham Open Space properties were inspected and the following deficiencies were noted: the signage at Curtis Woodlands and Whites Farm does not mention LWCF program specifically, and parking spaces for persons with disabilities were not present at the skating pond. Brian will respond to the letter. There is a problem with erosion of the brook bank on Whites Farm. There needs to be a swath of vegetation along the bank rather than mowing right up to the edge. Ralph Chase suggested that a possible Eagle Scout project would be to build a walkway or platform to access the brook.

Chair's Report – Correspondence, Memorial Plantings Marker, Memorial Plantings for Roger Newton & Charlie Wimler: Casey Cordes, Ralph Chase and Jack Stahl looked at the trees on Whites Farm to determine what trees needed to be cut down or pruned. One of the memorial trees has died and should be replaced. Bob Melvin will look into getting 3 memorial trees. Brian Ameche discussed idea of a memorial plantings marker that would identify the memorial plantings and in whose memory with some background about the person. The marker would be a large boulder with a plaque.

Other Business: Casey Cordes distributed the list of potential recipients of the Management Plan for Curtis Woodlands letter for additions or deletions.

There was discussion about the level of involvement or coordination the Commission should have with the Economic Development Commission. The Conservation Commission feels it should have input.

Bob Melvin commented that he thought there were surveyor tags on the Birch Mill Road property.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary