

**TOWN OF DURHAM**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 9, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Chairman Brian Ameche at the Durham Public Library.

**Members Present:** Brian Ameche, Ralph Chase, Casey Cordes, Joe Dattilo, Rick Huntley, Bob Melvin

**Approval of December Meeting Minutes:** Casey Cordes, seconded by Ralph Chase to approve the December 12, 2006 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Amendments to Agenda / Approval of Agenda:** Amendment to the agenda as follows: replace item 5 Request to use Whites Farm – TBD with site plan review of property on Route 68 and Maple Avenue. Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Huntley to approve the agenda as distributed and amended, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Payment of Bills:** Bill for \$22.50 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services and \$2,000.00 to Susan White for White's Farm maintenance. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bob Melvin to approve the payment of the bills, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Session:** Steven Aubrey brought a request to sign a consent form to permit hunting coyote on Durham Open Space property. Discussion ensued. Rick Huntley will contact DEP wildlife division about management of coyote populations. A decision will be rendered at the next regular meeting of the Commission.

**Site Plan Review – Rt. 68 & Maple Avenue – Paul Lambert, Kevin Walka:** Paul Lambert presented a subdivision proposal. Discussion ensued. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bob Melvin to recommend that the property owners, in lieu of any other conservation easement, provide to the Town a 50' by 100' area adjacent to the existing parking area for future expansion of the skating pond parking, made a motion. Motion passed with 2 abstentions.

**Durham Rod & Gun Club – Age Restricted Housing – John Corona:** John Corona showed a map indicating the intent to protect the ridge line on the northerly slope of the site. This area is about 6 acres. John distributed a letter from Adam Moore of Connecticut Forest and Park Association about the relocation of the Mattabesett Trail. There is also the possibility of holding the 13 acre parcel for the building of a Senior Citizen Center for some amount of time while the Senior Citizen Site Selection Committee explores the feasibility of developing that site. There was discussion about whether there would be excessive cutting of trees on the site. Rick Huntley, seconded by Ralph Chase to recommend to Planning & Zoning to accept the 6+ acres open space set aside as described, and to endorse the relocation of the Mattabesett Trail as indicated in Adam Moore's letter of January 8, 2007, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions and Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program:** No update. Brian Ameche and Rick Terrill still have to get together.

**Open Space Issues Reports – Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road Gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance, Other:** Rick Huntley reported that the additional gate for Creampot Road should be delivered to the Town Garage this week. Bob Melvin discussed some findings from the files of former Chair Gregory Curtis.

**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:** The area of Whites Farm used by the Durham Fair for parking has not been restored. Andy Golschneider was present to find out about the duties of the Property Stewards. Ralph Chase will email the stewardship information package to Andy. Andy also mentioned that the Boy Scouts are coordinating with the State Police to hold an Emergency Preparedness Day in April. The activities would take place on the Creampot Valley property.

**Chair’s Report – Correspondence, Memorial Plantings, Other:** Brian Ameche distributed copies of the 2007-2008 operating budget and 5 year capital improvement plan for review.

**Election of Officers:** Casey Cordes, seconded by Rick Huntley to elect the slate of officers as presented; Chair – Brian Ameche, Co-Vice Chair – Ralph Chase, Co-Vice Chair – Bob Melvin and Secretary – Bill LaFlamme, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Other Business:** There was discussion about the water company project.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley  
Recording Secretary