

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 10, 2006

Chairman Brian Ameche at the Durham Public Library called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Members Present: Brian Ameche, Ralph Chase, Casey Cordes, Joseph Dattilo, Rick Huntley, Bob Melvin, Adam Moore

Excused: Bill LaFlamme, Rick Terrill

Approval of December Meeting Minutes: Ralph Chase seconded by Joseph Dattilo to approve the December 14, 2005 minutes as distributed made a motion. Motion passed with 2 abstentions.

Amendments to Agenda / Approval of Agenda: Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Huntley to approve the agenda as presented, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Payment of Bills: Pam Huntley, \$22.50 for secretarial services, Joseph F Perrilli, \$2,500.00 for appraisal of Pasquale DiNatale property; Ralph Chase, seconded by Adam Moore to approve payment of the bills, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously

Public Session: none

Site Development Plan Review – Other TBD: none.

Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions and Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program: Discussions continuing with property owners, Jim Scott and Richard Vynalek. Adam Moore gave an overview of a federal grant program, Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for which the Scott property may qualify. DiNatale property was accepted at the December 20, 2005 Town Meeting. Finalization of the Smith property acquisition continues.

Open Space Issues Report – Status ERT Reports for Curtis Woodlands and Pent Road, Dead Hill Road & Cream Pot Road access gates, Curtis Woodlands encroachments, Signs, Security, Maintenance, Other: No report has been received from the ERT review for Curtis Woodlands and Pent Road. Public Works has painted the access gates for Dead Hill Road and Cream Pot Road property in preparation of installation. It was noted that boulders would need to be placed on an old logging road that enters the property below the placement of the pipe gate on the Dead Hill Road side of the property. There was discussion about who will need keys to the gates once they are installed. Brian Ameche will check with the First Selectman about distribution of keys to the gates. Public Works needs to schedule a date for installation of the gates. Brian Ameche reported that as agreed last meeting a certified, return receipt letter was sent to the Williams regarding the Curtis Woodlands encroachment. There has been no response to date from the Williams. Ralph Chase seconded by Joseph Dattilo to authorize Brian Ameche after a visual inspection of the Curtis Woodlands encroachment, to turn the matter over to the Town Attorney if the encroachment still exists. Motion passed unanimously. There was

discussion about monitoring use of open space properties. There was discussion about the need to update open space maps, trails, access and use of the properties. The Commission's permits for spring clean up of Allyn Brook and general repairs to access drives and other maintenance along Allyn Brook were approved at the January 9, 2006 Durham Inland Wetland Commission meeting.

CC Calendar – Status: Joe Dattilo provided an update on the calendar project. There was discussion about various means to obtain photos for the calendar. Brian Ameche will submit a request to the Board of Selectmen in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the project.

Chair's Report – Correspondence, Memorial Plantings, Other: The Commission needs to submit their budget.

Election of Officers for 2006: Adam Moore, seconded by Casey Cordes to accept the slate of officers as presented; Chair – Brian Ameche, Co-Vice Chair – Ralph Chase, Co-Vice Chair – Bob Melvin and Secretary – Bill LaFlamme. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: none

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary