

**TOWN OF DURHAM**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 10, 2007**

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

**Members Present:** Brian Ameche, Ralph Chase, Joe Dattilo, Mike Doyle, Rick Huntley, Bob Melvin

**Approval of June Meeting Minutes:** Ralph Chase, seconded by Joe Dattilo to approve the June 12, 2007 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Amendments to Agenda / Approval of Agenda:** No additions or deletions to the distributed agenda.

**Payment of Bills:** Bill for \$15 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services. Ralph Chase, seconded by Joe Dattilo to approve the payment of the bill, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Session:** Melynda Naples gave an update on current activities on the farm. She is now making and selling soft cheeses. She made a request to the Commission to pay her lease on a quarterly basis rather than an annual basis. Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Huntley to change the annual lease for Deerfield Farm to a quarterly lease payment starting August 1, 2007. Motion passed unanimously. Melynda expressed concern about the condition of the silo located on the property. The Commission will look into getting it repaired. She would like to finish off the bottom of the silo and use it as an aging room for hard cheeses sometime in the future.

Seth Lerman from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was in attendance to report on the sedimentation and erosion at Allyn Brook. Rick Huntley, seconded by Ralph Chase to recess to Whites Farm for the explanation of the report and then to reconvene at the library to continue the meeting, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Seth Lerman distributed copies of his report and explained the findings to the Commission on site at Allyn Brook. The increase frequency of sedimentation and erosion and flooding are the result of a change in the watershed due mainly to residential development. The increase in impervious surfaces results in an increase in storm water surface runoff. Allyn Brook has a flat gradient which means that stream velocity is low and therefore the ability to transport sediment is low. Mowing all the way to the edge of the stream bed leaves vegetation with shallow root structures which provide little or no stream bank stability. Several options were presented that may help with stream bank erosion, including a vegetation buffer of 15-20 feet from the stream edge. Seth will put together a list of suitable plants that could help with stabilization. Stream meandering is a normal process, with new channels being cut over time. Flooding in this area is also a normal process. A site specific investigation is recommended in order to determine the suitability of the site for a specific practice. NRCS is available for further technical assistance.

**Request to use Whites Farm – TBD:** None

**Site Development Plan Review – Tilcon Minerals, Inc – South Side of Route 68:** Discussion followed. No comment from the Commission.

**Site Development Plan Review – Town of Durham – Fire Access Driveway – 37-51 Main St.:** Discussion followed. No comment from the Commission.

**Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions and Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program:** The mailing will go out as soon as Pam Huntley gets letterhead for printing the letters.

**Open Space Issues Reports – Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road Gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance at Deerfield Farm, Other:** No update on the new gate or locks. Bob Atwell has contacted Brian with an interest in mowing whatever is available to mow.

**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:** No reports from the stewards. Ralph Chase reported that the contracted tree service will bring in an arborist for the trees in the memorial planting area. One maple tree will be cut down and the other 2 maple trees may be able to be saved.

There was further discussion about the next steps at Allyn Brook (White's Farm). Consensus was to create a vegetation buffer of 15-20 feet from the stream bank and do some appropriate plantings to help stabilize the stream bank. The road area will be monitored during heavy rain storms for another season to see if the wash-out is coming from the stream or running down the main road from Maple Avenue.

**Chair's Report – Correspondence, Memorial Plantings Marker for Existing Memorial Plantings for Edwin Eick - Tupelo, Jack Donadio – American Dogwood, Austin Ackerman – 3 American Hollies, Carl Otte - ?, Frank Behrens - ?, Mr.White - ?, & Frank LaBella - ?; New Memorial Plantings for Roger Newton & Charlie Wimler:** Brian Ameche distributed copies of the 2008 budget for the Commission. The planting for Bob White was an American Hornbeam. The 3 remaining unassigned trees are a Norway Maple and 2 Sugar Maples.

**Other Business:** Schedule a site walk of the Pat Dinatale property and the property on Birch Mill Road. The site walk will be planned for the regular August meeting date of August 14. The Commission will meet at 7 PM in the Time Out Tavern parking lot.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley  
Recording Secretary