

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 13, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by Chairman Brian Ameche at the Durham Public Library.

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

The agenda was submitted too late to be posted the required 24 hours in advance of this meeting. Therefore, no motions, approvals or disapprovals can take place during this meeting. All business requiring a vote will be carried over to the December meeting.

Approval of October Meeting Minutes:

Amendments to Agenda / Approval of Agenda:

Payment of Bills:

Public Session: John Corona, representing the Czaja family, showed the location of a piece of property that borders State property that the family wishes to sell and was looking for some direction. The Commission recommends approaching the State first.

Service Project at Curtis Woodlands - Sheehan Michael: Sheehan Michael presented his proposed Eagle Project. His project involves work at Curtis Woodlands to include clearing of invasive plant species, marking and mapping the 2 trails on the property, along with some trail maintenance. Brian Ameche suggested that Sheehan also consider rerouting of the horse path and addressing wetland stream crossings. The Commission will provide Sheehan with the latest ERT report on the property so that he can review the recommendations that were made in the report. If approved, he would start work this spring. The sense of the Commission was that this was an acceptable project and would be voted on at the December meeting.

Site Development Plan Review - Silver Eagle Development Trust retail center on the west side of Main Street north of 147 John Corona: John Corona showed an overview map of how this site relates with surrounding sites. He also showed the color site plan exhibit. He then was available for a question and answer session. The Commission would like to make the following suggestions to Planning & Zoning: consider decreasing the amount of impervious surface by reducing the number of parking spaces, take a look at the scale of the proposed landscaping and perhaps seek guidance from NRCS in regards to impervious surfaces.

Subdivision Development Plan TBD: none

Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions & Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program: Brian Ameche and Bill LaFlamme met with 2 families that expressed interest in discussing various options for their properties after receiving the recent mailings from the Commission. The Commission will move forward and schedule preliminary appraisals for the properties. There was discussion about the Camp Farnum property as well.

Open Space Issues Reports **Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road Gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance at Deerfield Farms, Other:** Brian Ameche has purchased 4 locks for the gates. He will get the locks all keyed the same and install them. The second gate on Creampot Road needs to be installed. Ralph Chase will work with Kurt Bober to get the gate installed.

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 sent an email indicating no problems to report at the Whites Farm property. There were no reports from any of the other stewards.

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 - ?; New Memorial Plantings for Roger Newton (white oak) & Charlie Wimler (TBD). **Plan to replace 2 maples with water tolerant trees in the Spring:** There was discussion about choosing plantings to be planted this spring.

Other Business: Bob Melvin and Casey Cordes attended the CACIWC annual meeting and environmental conference held at Mountainside on November 10. The workshops they attended were very informative.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary