

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by Vice-Chairman Ralph Chase at the Durham Public Library.

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

Approval of August Meeting Minutes: Casey Cordes, seconded by Bob Melvin to approve the August 14, 2007 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with 1 abstention, Joe Dattilo.

Amendments to Agenda / Approval of Agenda: Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve the agenda as distributed with the addition of adding the hunting lottery under the item #4, Public Session, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Public Session: Melynda Naples gave the first quarterly payment on her lease. There will probably be an open house at Deerfield Farm in October. She reported that there has been some ATV activity recently and passed the details on to Ralph Chase. Ralph will report it to the DEP Enforcement Officer who will follow up on the issue. The hunting permits were executed for those in attendance.

Request to use Whites Farm – TBD: None

Site Development Plan – Silver Eagle Development Trust - West side of Main Street north of 147 – Retail Center: Reviewed the plan and since it is so extensive the Commission will conduct a site visit before commenting.

Subdivision Development Plan – Koerber, Dahlmeyer & White – 65R New Haven Road: Reviewed the plan and need further information before commenting. A site walk will be scheduled for this property.

Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Terrill to schedule site walks for the Silver Eagle Development Trust and Koerber, Dahlmeyer & White properties and to request more information about both sites, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously. Site walks of both properties will be on Saturday, September 22, 2007 at 9 AM, meeting at Perk on Main to start.

Bob Melvin requested an update on the Dinatale property swap. Brian will talk with the First Selectman.

Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions & Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program: Nineteen letters were sent out and 2 were returned as not deliverable. Brian received one response to the letters. The next step is for follow up phone calls. Pam Huntley will email the updated list to all the Commission members. It would be a nice gesture to send Christmas cards to the property owners we have sent mailings this year.

Open Space Issues Reports – Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road Gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance at Deerfield Farms, Other: There was discussion about the process of the Town tree removals. The trees are cut down and left on Town property. People can take whatever they can cart away and the large pieces will be picked up by the Town at some point. Brian has asked Sue White to leave a 20-foot unmowed buffer along the edge of Allyn Brook that to help stabilize the bank and to cut 2 paths to the brook for public access to the brook. There was discussion about providing habitat for grassland birds on part of White's Farm by limiting cutting in an area to be determined.

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: Ralph Chase received an email that there were fireworks and a beer party on the top of Mt. Pisgah one weekend. Ray Koba reported that there are no locks on the Sawmill Road gate. Brian will get locks for the gates. The second gate on Cream Pot Road needs to be installed. Brian will call Kurt Bober.

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 – Sugar Maple, Frank Behrens - ?, Mr. White – American Hornbeam, & Frank LaBella - ?; New Memorial Plantings for Roger Newton & Charlie Wimler: Pam Huntley distributed the report from Town Hall Summer Intern Don Rawlings' research of prior years minutes regarding memorial plantings. A donation to the Middlesex Land Trust was made in memory of Frank LaBella in Fall 2000.

Other Business: The remainder of the hunting permits were executed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary