

**TOWN OF DURHAM**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 12, 2005**

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

**Members Present:** Brian Ameche, Ray Bahr, Ralph Chase, Joseph Dattilo, Rick Huntley, Bill LaFlamme, Bob Melvin, Adam Moore

**Excused:** Rick Terrill

**Approval of June Meeting Minutes:** Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Joseph Dattilo to approve the June 14, 2005 minutes, made a motion. Motion passed with one abstention.

**Amendments to Agenda / Approval of Agenda:** Bob Melvin, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve the agenda as presented, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Payment of Bills:** Pam Huntley, \$15 for secretarial services, Garcia & Associates, \$183.65 and \$315.00 for Barn site, Bob Melvin, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve payment of the bills, made a motion. Adam Moore, seconded by Bill LaFlamme amended motion to include Ralph Chase, \$31.78 for trash bags. Motion as amended passed unanimously.

**Public Session:** none

**Discussion with representatives of the Skating Pond Committee:** Tim Larkin, Don Guenther and Mark Andrews presented an overview of the plans for the skating pond. The plan is to repair the existing pond keeping things as simple as possible. Brian Ameche clarified that the Conservation Commission has direct jurisdiction over work performed on the skating pond. The skating pond committee should get approval from this commission before proceeding with any work. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to support the concept of restoring the skating pond at its present location as presented by the Skating Pond Committee, made a motion. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

**Site Development Plan Review – TBD:** none to review

**Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions and Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program:** Bill LaFlamme reported that Katherine Smith is anxious to expedite the process for the sale of 30 acres of open space land to the Town. The sale has to go through the Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen and a Town Meeting, at least a 60-90 days process. Brian Ameche will firm up a time line and convey the information to Ms. Smith. Maryann Boord requested that the land located in Durham that abuts the proposed Guilford subdivision near Crooked Hill Road be looked at as a possible open space acquisition.

**Open Space Issues Report – Status ERT Reports for Curtis Woodlands and Pent Road, Dead Hill Road access gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance, Acquisition, Other:** No report has been received from the ERT review. Ralph Chase reported that the cleanup of the Pisgah open space property went well. A lot of trash was hauled out of the area. Rick Huntley reported that the two pipe gates for the Pisgah property are ready to be delivered. Ralph Chase, seconded by Adam Moore to authorize payment to Boudreau Welding up to \$3,000.00 for the two pipe gates upon receipt of the bill, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Chair’s Report – Correspondence, Memorial Plantings, Other:** Mary Ryan letter expressing concerns about the development of the Northern Heights property. Brian Ameche distributed a draft memo in response to Sue & Rodney William’s letter from last month’s correspondence. Discussion followed. It was suggested to mark the access and trail down to the brook and to post a map so that the public is aware that it is open space property. Ronnie Stannard will be brush hogging the field.

**Other Business:** Bob Melvin reported that he attended the first half hour of the EPA meeting about the Durham Meadows superfund site. The proposed cleanup plan is nearly \$13M. There will be a 30-day public comment period starting tomorrow. Paul Woodworth from the CT River Coastal Conservation District is looking for help preparing a mailing of approximately 200 copies of *A Guide for Streamside Landowners of the Mattabesset Watershed* to riparian landowners in Durham. Bob Melvin and Ralph Chase volunteered to help. Adam Moore reported that the Governor signed Bill 410 – funding for farmland preservation, open-space acquisition, historic preservation and affordable housing which increases the fees collected for filing municipal land records. The hunting program is up and running again for the next season. Applications have to be received by August 19, 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley  
Recording Secretary