

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 12, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM by Chairman Brian Ameche at the Durham Public Library.

Members Present: Brian Ameche, Ralph Chase, Rick Huntley, Bill LaFlamme, Bob Melvin

Approval of May Meeting Minutes: Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve the May 8, 2007 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with one abstention.

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

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

Public Session: none

Request to use Whites Farm – TBD: none

Site Development Plan Review - TBD: none

Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions and Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program: Review of the letter to be sent for the Open Space Acquisition Program. Pam Huntley will prepare the mailing.

Open Space Issues Reports – Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road Gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance, Other: Ralph Chase reported that in a conversation with Kurt Bober, Public Works and the Fire Department wish to have keyed locks on the open space property gates. Discussion ensued. Keys should be distributed to the Fire Chief, Resident State Trooper, 2 Conservation Officers, Public Works, First Selectman's Office and Conservation Commission (3). There are 6 gates on open space properties. Ralph will co-ordinate with Kurt. The Commission would like a written list about the distribution of keys for the files.

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 reported that the repair of the road needs to be done again, trees are dying in the memorial area and others need pruning, fields have not been mowed, erosion control barriers are broken down again, erosion of the brook bank. Rick Huntley suggested contacting the Conservation District that services Durham and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to evaluate the brook erosion and what steps should be taken. He will get the name and phone number of a contact.

Rick Huntley, seconded by Ralph Chase, to authorize the town contracted arborist to work on trimming and/or removal of trees in the memorial tree area on White's Farm, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Report – Correspondence, Memorial Plantings Marker, Memorial Plantings for Roger Newton & Charlie Wimler: Bob Melvin is look into getting 3 memorial trees for planting in the fall. The Commission needs to get a mapping of the memorial plantings.

Other Business: Bill LaFlamme commented that his wife spotted a large cat like animal that she thought was a mountain lion on the Dead Hill Road property. Bill also reported that all of the comment cards from hunters on the Curtis Woodlands property have complaints about horse riding or other activities when they are trying to hunt.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary