

**TOWN OF DURHAM**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 12, 2006**

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

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

**Approval of August Regular Meeting Minutes:** Ralph Chase, seconded by Casey Cordes to approve the August, 2006 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with 1 abstention.

**Amendments to Agenda / Approval of Agenda:** Bill LaFlamme suggested executing hunting permits now for those present. The review of Old Blue Hills Road – West side of Shunpike Road is added as item 7a. Review of storm water management practices and maps from NRCS and invitation to observe a timber harvest conducted by DEP are added under item 13. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bob Melvin to approve the agenda as amended, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Payment of Bills:** Bill for \$22.50 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services. Bill for \$1800 to Flanagan Associates for appraisal services on the Scott property. Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Ralph Chase to approve the payment of the bills, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Session:** Michael Doyle was present and expressed an interest in serving on the Commission. He was encouraged to pursue a recommendation by the Democratic Town Committee to the BOS, who can in turn appoint him to the seat. There was extensive discussion about the Camp Farnum property.

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

**Update on Deerfield Farm:** Melynda Naples is requesting a modification of the lease to allow her to pay quarterly instead of annually. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to modify the lease on Deerfield Farm to be paid on a quarterly basis, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Site Development Plan Review – 9 Lot Subdivision – N side of Johnson Lane – Stone Bridge Crossing LLC:** There is a site walk on Saturday, September 16, 2006 at 9 AM.

**Review of Old Blue Hills Road & W side of Shunpike Road:** Ralph Chase and Casey Cordes reviewed the property on August 10, 2006 and presented their general observations and recommendations. Report is appended to the end of these minutes. Bob Melvin, seconded by Rick Huntley to endorse the recommendations and pass them on to the Planning & Zoning Commission, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Hunting Lottery Report:** There were 69 applicants, down from around 90 applicants last year. Thirty-six out of thirty-nine slots are filled. This is a new high.

**Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions & Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program:** Discussions between the Regional Water Authority and the property owner are ongoing for the Vynalek property. Brian Ameche and Rick Terrill have not met yet to discuss the current status of the Open Space Acquisition Program and what the next steps are.

**Open Space Issues Report – Dead Hill Road & Cream Pot Road gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance, Other:** Rick Huntley has received a proposal for the additional Cream Pot Road gate from Boudreau Welding in the amount of \$1650. Casey Cordes contacted Voss Signs for a quote on open space signage. There are 2 styles that have been used previously. Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Huntley to purchase 300 of each sign for a total of \$459, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion of duties of Property Stewards – Preliminary Roster: Whites Farm – Jack Stahl; Pent Road (Deerfield Farm) – Melynda Naples; Howd Road – Matt Reed; Pisgah Mountain & Creampot Valley – Andy Goldschneider with BSA Troop 27; Curtis Woodlands – Rob Williams; Wimler Property – Dick Porter; and Sawmill Road – TBD:** There was general discussion about duties and process. The following was suggested: 1) monthly report from the stewards should go to Ralph Chase who will report any issues at the regular Conservation Commission meetings, 2) the process for reporting violations of open space regulations will initially be as follows: - Stewards to Ralph to Bill Meyers, DEP Enforcement Agent), 3) to keep stewards informed about dates of permitted use by organized groups they will be included on the distribution list for all minutes and agendas, and 4) each steward will get a copy of the regulations and map of the property. In addition to the suggested stewards listed, Brian Ameche will ask George and Irene Roberts and Ray Koba to participate.

**Chair's Report – Correspondence, Memorial Plantings, Other:** The Conservation Commission report is due for inclusion in the Town's annual report. Brian is looking for a volunteer to write the report. Brian went through the correspondence received since last month. Bob Melvin and Ralph Chase will pursue what type of memorial planting to purchase for Roger Newton.

**Other Business:** Rick Huntley presented storm water management maps of the Cuginchaug Watershed prepared by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Discussion followed. Rick will check with Geoffrey Colegrove to see if he has access to these maps.

There will be an opportunity after the Johnson Lane site walk on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM to observe a timber harvest in Cockaponset State Forest. State Forester, Emery Gluck will host a group on site.

**Executing Hunting Permits:** The remaining permits were executed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley  
Recording Secretary

## REVIEW OF OLD BLUE HILLS ROAD AND WEST SIDE OF SHUNPIKE ROAD

August 10, 2006, by Casey Cordes, Forester, and Ralph Chase, Assistant Tree Warden, Town of Durham, both members of the Conservation Commission

Applicant: Roger Passavant and Lisa Harness

### General Observations:

Parcel is corner lot with fairly recent tree growth, consisting of small maple trees, wild cherry and ash.

There are no trees on Town property on the Old Blue Hills Road side (50' right of way, 25' from center of road).

### Recommendations:

Old Blue Hills Road side. Save the large oaks and maples. Provide a buffer of arborvitae, for example. The ash, cedar and apple can be removed.

On the Shunpike Road side, save 6" maples and provide low screening.

Wetlands should be left undisturbed.

Other homes in the area on both streets are very close to the road. The proposed footprint would be in keeping with these homes.