

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

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

Members Present: Brian Ameche, Ralph Chase, Casey Cordes, Joe Dattilo, Michael Doyle, Bob Melvin

Approval of February Meeting Minutes: Ralph Chase, seconded by Casey Cordes to approve the February 13, 2007 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with one abstention.

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

Payment of Bills: Bill for \$15 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services. Casey Cordes, seconded by Ralph Chase to approve the payment of the bill, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Session: none

Request to use Whites Farm – TBD: none

Stone Bridge Crossing LLC – Review: After reviewing the plan, the Commission will advise Planning & Zoning that there is high level impact on the site and recommend a site walk. The Commission reserves comment until after the site walk.

Discussion of Planned Improvements at Deerfield Farms - Melynda Naples: Melynda distributed copies of proposed planned improvements for Deerfield Farms. She would like to add a processing room that would allow her to pasteurize the milk, make butter, yogurt, and soft cheeses. The room would be created by enclosing an existing bay in the barn. All products that she wishes to sell on site have to be made on site. Melynda would be responsible for acquiring the necessary building permits. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bob Melvin to approve the planned improvements as presented, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Melynda is also exploring the possibility of installing solar panels. There was discussion about whether or not the roof can support the load of solar panels. There will be an Open House in June 2007. Jacques Pépin did a photo shoot at the farm and a couple of the photos will be in his new cookbook. Melynda will try to get him to attend the Open House.

Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions and Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program: Brian reported that he called Jim Scott and left a message that the Commission is only interested in the property at the lower price.

Open Space Issues Reports – Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road Gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance, Other: The gate on Cream Pot Road has been vandalized. The lock was broken

and the stop sign has been damaged. There was evidence that a 4-wheel drive vehicle went around the gate, knocking down some trees. Locks have been broken on the gates at Dead Hill Road and Saw Mill Road as well. Spring is coming and the open space property signs need to go up.

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 gave a report on the Whites Farm property. He has asked most of the people that walk on the property to report to him any abuses of the property that they may see. There is need for 2 additional trash cans on the property, abandoned tires need to be picked up, 3 culverts are blocked, roads are in need of repair, and the soil/erosion control barrier around the piles of stones for the water company project is broken. There was discussion about permitted uses and how to know what groups have permits. All permitted uses are recorded in the meeting minutes. Each permitted use does have a designated area. Jack also expressed concern about the size of some of the rockets that are used. In January, there were a couple of men netting bait in the brook to sell.

Melynda Naples reported that people drive through the fields from time to time. She also has concerns about pulling out onto the road with the tractor. Brian will make arrangements to get farm machinery signs installed so that people are aware that a farm tractor may be entering the road.

Andy Golschneider reported to Brian that Troop 27 is scheduling an Emergency Preparedness exercise on the Pisgah Mountain property.

Rob Williams and Matt Reed have reported that there are no issues at this time.

Ray Koba had concerns about horseback riding on the property and leaving deep prints when it is muddy. Horseback riding is permitted on the property.

Chair's Report – Correspondence, Memorial Plantings, Other: Memorial plantings for Roger Newton (oak species, perhaps white) and Charlie Wimler (species yet to be determined) are planned for the spring.

Other Business: Reviewed a site development plan from Nicholas Laudano to dig a pond on his Parmelee Hill Road property. There was discussion about water quality issues and maintenance. No comment from the Commission.

Michael Doyle requested help with scheduling an Environmental Review Team (ERT) evaluation for the Camp Farnum property. Brian will send a letter.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary