

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 14, 2006

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

Members Present: Brian Ameche, Ralph Chase, Casey Cordes, Joe Dattilo, Rick Huntley, Bill LaFlamme, Adam Moore, Rick Terrill

Members Absent: Bob Melvin

Approval of January Meeting Minutes: Ralph Chase, seconded by Adam Moore to approve the January 10, 2006 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Minutes approved with one abstention by Bill LaFlamme.

Amendments to Agenda / Approval of Agenda: No amendments to agenda. Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Huntley to approve the agenda as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Payment of Bills: Bill for \$18.75 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services and \$47.51 to the Middletown Press for a legal notice. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve the payment of the bills, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Session: George and Irene Roberts were present. George stated that the gates have been installed on Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road and that he is very pleased. He wished to thank the Commission for their part in acquiring the gates and to the Town crew for a job well done installing the gates. Ralph Chase added some additional comments about the installation of the gates. There is a combination lock on both gates.

Site Development Plan Review: no plans to review.

Request to Use Whites Farm Cato Rocket Club: Cato Rocket Club members Al Gloer and Ulf Jonsson were present. Dates requested for scheduled events from 9AM - 4 PM as follows: 5/20, 6/17, 7/15, 8/19 and 9/9/2006. Also requesting backup dates from 9AM - 4 PM if the Sterling, CT site cannot be used as follows: 2/18, 3/18, 4/15, 10/21, 11/18, 12/16/2006 and 1/20/2007. Discussion ensued. Commission requests the Club notify Brian Ameche by fax when the backup dates are used. Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Huntley to approve the use of Whites Farm by Cato Rocket Club for the submitted scheduled dates and backup dates, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Request to Use Whites Farm Blacksheep Squadron of Durham Annual Permit 2006: A motion was made by Rick Terrill, seconded by Ralph Chase to grant the annual permit for 2006 to the Blacksheep Squadron for use of Whites Farm.

Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions and Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program: Brian Ameche reported that Mr. Scott is out of the country and will return in early March when discussions will continue. There was a question about whether the

sale of the Clementel property (Katherine Smith) has been completed. There has been no confirmation one way or the other received by the Commission to date. Brian will follow up. Adam Moore reported that the South Central Regional Water Authority is conducting an appraisal of the Vynalek property (Higganum Road).

Open Space Issues Report Status of ERT Reports for Curtis Woodlands and Pent Road, Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road access gates, Curtis Woodlands encroachments, Signs, Security, Maintenance, Acquisition, Other: The ERT report was received and distributed to the members of the Commission. Members will review specific sections of the report and summarize at a future meeting. The section assignments are as follows:

Rick Huntley Conservation District Review, Wetland Resources, Natural Diversity DB
Casey Cordes Vegetation Review
Brian Ameche Fisheries Resources
Adam Moore Recreation Review
Joe Dattilo Topography, Geology and Hydrology
Ralph Chase Wildlife Resources
Bill LaFlamme Archaeological and Historical Review

Once the report has been reviewed, the Commission should schedule time at a Board of Selectman meeting to present recommendations to implement, why it is important and how it may influence our budget request for 2006-2007. An ERT review of the Mt. Pisgah property is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2006. ERT team members and commission members are meeting at 9:30 AM at the Durham Public Library.

The Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road access gates have been installed. See discussion under the public session. There is no update on the Curtis Woodlands encroachments. The new town attorney is from Tyler Cooper & Alcorn.

CC Calendar - Status: Brian Ameche has submitted a request for funding in the amount of \$16,000 to produce the calendar. Irene Roberts questioned the purpose of a calendar. Rick Huntley noted that a section of the ERT reports is dedicated to public relations and that the main purpose of the calendar is to make the town's people aware of the open space properties, where they are, why they are important and the other values (besides recreation) the properties have for the town.

Chair's Report Correspondence, Memorial Plantings, Other: Ralph Chase reported that obtaining the memorial planting for Bob White is underway. The dedication is scheduled for April 29, 2006.

Other Business: Ralph Chase read a letter that he is personally sending to State Senator Meyer about ATV use in State Parks, State Forests and other public lands. Consensus of those present was to send a similar letter from the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary