

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 14, 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, Joe Dattilo, Rick Huntley, Bill LaFlamme, Bob Melvin

Members Absent: Adam Moore, Rick Terrill

Approval of February Meeting Minutes: Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve the February, 2006 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Minutes approved with one abstention by Bob Melvin.

Amendments to Agenda / Approval of Agenda: Amend agenda to add Andy Golschneider, Boy Scout Troop 27 under item 12. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve the agenda as amended, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Payment of Bills: Bill for \$300.00 to Flanagan Associates for pre-appraisal of the Dinatale property. Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Huntley to approve the payment of the bill, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Session: Jack Stahl and Andy Golschneider were present. Jack Stahl had some comments about the upkeep of Whites Farm. This winter the roads are not taken care of; it is rutted and full of trash. He expressed his concern about misuse of the area by 4-wheel drive vehicles. Brian Ameche responded that it has been the Commission's practice to allow Mother Nature to do her thing during the winter. In the spring the roadways are repaired, deal with the stream flow, cleanup the siltation along the stream, and deal with trash. Periodically there is a general cleanup of the area. The Commission is not in a position to police the area and clean up after the public. It is the Commission's responsibility to post the appropriate use of open space property. The Commission does not have regulation enforcement authority. Enforcement authority lies with the Board of Selectman's Office. Jack suggested purchasing and installing surveillance cameras in order to catch people violating the regulated use of the property.

Andy Golschneider passed out copies of information pertaining to RB5806 An Act Concerning All-Terrain Vehicles, which will be heard on Friday, March 17, 2006 at a Public Hearing of the State Legislature.

Status of Skating Pond Work – Brian Curtis: Rick Huntley received a call from Brian Curtis and submitted a report for him as follows: work to date consists of the Eagle Project modifications to add wood chips and stairs. Benches have been constructed but not installed due to the lack of ice this season. Significant modifications of the weir system, berm and lights will be on hold until low flow conditions this summer.

Site Development Plan Review – Lot II – Commerce Circle – CSK Realty, LLC: Discussion followed. Ralph Chase, seconded by Joe Dattilo to provide no comment, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Request to Use Whites Farm – Yankee Territory Coinshooters: Dates requested were 4/15/2006 with a rain date of 4/23/2006. Brian Ameche contacted the Cato Rocket Club who had previously requested 4/15 as a backup date and agreed to surrender that date. Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Huntley to approve the use of Whites Farm by Yankee Territory Coinshooters on 4/15 with a rain date of 4/23 subject to providing the appropriate insurance, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions and Update on the New Phase of Open Space Acquisition Program: Brian Ameche reported that the Smith acquisition closed 1/11/2006. An updated appraisal is being done on the Scott property. The Vynalek property continues to be of interest to the South Central Regional Water Authority.

Open Space Issues Report – Report on 3/14 ERT walk of Pisgah Mountain & Cream Pot Valley, Summaries of ERT Report chapters on Curtis Woodlands and Pent Road Dead Hill Road & Cream Pot Road access gates, Curtis Woodlands encroachments, Signs, Security, Maintenance, Other: The ERT report met this morning and conducted the site walk. The report is expected in 60-90 days. Commission members presented summary reviews of the Curtis Woodlands and Pent Road ERT report. Casey Cordes summarized the vegetation section and agrees with the management recommendations made in the report. Casey also suggested to “think big – start small” when developing a management plan to follow. Joe Dattilo summarized the topology, hydrology and geology section. Brian Ameche summarized the fisheries section and noted 2 recommendations.

The open space properties need to have signs posted and property lines marked again.

The fence encroachment has been removed from the Curtis Woodlands property. The Dead Hill Road & Cream Pot Road access gates have been installed. The Dead Hill Road gate is in a good location and boulder placement restricts vehicle access around and above the gate. The Cream Pot gate is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in from the staked location.

CC Calendar - Status: The Board of Finance denied the funding for the calendar. Brian Ameche is meeting with the Board of Finance Saturday, March 18, 2006 at 10 AM to discuss the CC budget request.

Chair’s Report – 2006-2007 Budget, Correspondence, Memorial Plantings, Other: The operating budget passed.

Other Business: Andy Golschneider on behalf of Boy Scout Troop 27 requested the use of Curtis Woodlands for camping April 7-9, 2006. He has received a certificate of insurance covering Troop 27 that is valid from March 1, 2006 to March 1, 2007 on any and all Town properties as long as they have prior approval for meetings or activities. Rick Huntley, seconded by Ralph Chase to approve the request of Boy Scout Troop 27 to camp at Curtis Woodlands April 7-9, 2006. Motion passed unanimously.

Andy made a second request for a general permit for use of open space lands that could be approved in a short turn around time rather than having to wait for the monthly Commission meeting. Discussion ensued. The Commission encouraged Andy to take a look at the Pisgah Mountain – Cream Pot Valley property for possible scouting uses. Rick Huntley, seconded by Casey Cordes made a motion to authorize the chairman or vice chairman to authorize the Scouts to use any of the open space properties at any point in time with the exception of Whites Farm. Rick Huntley, seconded by Casey Cordes amended the motion to approve a general permit for Troop 27 to use Curtis Woodlands for camping and outdoor activities with written notification to the Commission for a 1-year period for the duration of the insurance certificate that they have in place. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary