

# TOWN OF DURHAM

## Conservation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

*Tuesday November 14, 2006*

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, Bill LaFlamme, Michael Doyle  
Rick Huntley, Casey Cordes, Bob Melvin, Joe Dattilo

1. **Approval of October Meeting Minutes:** *A motion was made by Ralph Chase seconded by Casey Cordes to approve the October 10<sup>th</sup> minutes. Minutes approved with one abstention by Bill LaFlamme.*
2. **Amendments to Agenda/ Approval of Agenda:** *A motion was made by Rick Huntley, seconded by Ralph Chase to approve the agenda with the withdrawal of the request to use White's Farm – Owl Prowl 12/12/06 by Ms Nichols and the addition of Review of Water Co. request for easement Durham Fair/Whites's Farm property as item 5, and Review of site plan Estate of Blue Hills as item 5a. Motion passed unanimously.*
3. **Payment of Bills:** *None*
4. **Public Session:** *None*
5. **Review of Water Co. request for easement – Durham Fair Assoc/ Whites Farm property;** *Selectwoman Renee Primus Edwards and Attorney John Corona were in attendance for information and to comment on this request, as it was brought the Commission's attention that a portion of the Fair access road is on town owned White's Farm property. The booster station will be on the Fair Association's property. A motion was made by Brian Ameche, seconded by Ralph Chase to approve a request by the Town of Durham to negotiate an easement access on a portion of White's Farm with the Durham Fair Association to maintain Fair access rd over that portion of White's Farmt, approved unanimously.*
- 5a. **Site Development Plan Review – Estate of Blue Hills;** *Frank Magnotta presented plans for a 10 lot subdivision on Blue Hills Rd. This was a new site plan for previously subdivided property, Frank showed previously existing conservation easements and the proposed conservation easements. A motion was made by Rick Huntley, seconded by Ralph Chase to expand the north*

*/south conservation easements to include the wetlands on either side to the maximum extent practical on lots 45 and 47. Motion was approved unanimously.*

- 6. Request to use Howd Rd – Jane Kondracki ;** *Jane has getting together informally, with a group of up to 8 people and retrievers to train their dogs for field trial competitions. She explained how her training works, including the use of a 22 caliber starter's pistol that fires blanks. A discussion ensued on whether this constituted discharge of a firearm not allowed by our open space regulations. It was determined by the Commission that because a starter's pistol could not discharge a live round and there is no license or permit required to own or use that it would not be considered a firearm under our regulations. The Commission discussed if this usage by this group of friends constituted an organized group or activity and would require a permit. The Commission will check with the town attorney about this activity and the liability issues. It was agreed to allow usage without permission or insurance until this is resolved.*
- 7. Durham Rod & Gun Club – Age Restricted Housing – Preliminary Review – John Corona;** *Attorney Corona presented and explained site plan. The Commission will hold comment until after December 9<sup>th</sup> site walk*
- 8. Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions & Update on the New Phase of Of Open Space Acquisition Program;** *No new Business*
- 9. Open Space Issues Report-Dead Hill Rd and Creampot Road Gates, Property Stewards, Signs, Security, Maintenance, Other ;** *Brian had composite maps made of all town owned open space property to be marked with signage by Conservation Commission members.*
- 10. Open forum with Property Stewards – Final Roster; White's Farm – Jack Stahl; Pent Rd (Deerfield Farm) – Melynda Naples; Howd Rd – Matt Reed; Pisgah Mountain – Andy Golschneider with BSA Troop 27; Creampot Valley – George and Irene Roberts; Curtis Woodlands – Rob Williams; Portion of Wimler Property with Public Access – Dick Porter; and Sawmill Rd – Ray Koba;** *DEP Conservation officers Bill Myers and Joe Ruggerio were in attendance to learn about the steward program and to explain what they do and answer questions etc. Brian Ameche gave background and explained the program to the officers. Bill Myers explained that they do not enforce our town ordinances. The officers said they would like to see DEP dispatch notified in case of an incident @ 860-424-3333. There was a discussion with the officers, stewards and the commission members regarding situations and how they should be handled. George Roberts asked the Commission if and what other properties we are looking at. Discussion ensued with the Commission.*
- 11. Chair's Report – Correspondence, Memorial Plantings Marker, Other;** *Bob Melvin advised that there would be no memorial tree plantings until spring.*

**12. Other Business:** *Discussion of open space and acquisition.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM*

Respectfully Submitted

William LaFlamme

Secretary