

Received: April 16, 2010
Office of the Town Clerk

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Bob Melvin at the Durham Public Library called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Members Present: Ralph Chase, Bill LaFlamme, Bob Melvin, Rick Terrill, Casey Cordes (7:55 PM)

Absent: Brian Ameche, Joe Dattilo, Michael Doyle, Rick Huntley

Call to Order/Roll Call: Members present introduced themselves. The meeting began with the Public Session until there was a quorum.

Amendments to Agenda/Approval of April Agenda: Additions to the agenda as item 6G – Skating Pond Committee Update, 6H – 11 lot Subdivision by Kumar Realty on Parmelee Hill Road and 6I – Request use of White's Farm by Glastonbury Modelers. Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Terrill to approve agenda as amended, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from March Regular Meeting: Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme, to approve the March 9, 2010 meeting minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Session: Dave Monroe, Tom Russell and Brian Curtis representing the skating pond committee gave a report about the work that has been done to date. So far the work has been repair and maintenance to the existing berm structure. New light poles and lighting were installed this winter. A weir structure is scheduled for installation at the end of June. There have been no structural changes to the pond that would contribute to flooding at White's Farm.

Dick Porter, on behalf of the Durham Fair Association, reported that the stumps and debris have been removed from the nursery area at White's Farm.

Bob Melvin reported that Kurt Bober has met with FEMA about the damage at White's Farm after the last storm.

Payment of Bills: None submitted.

New Business

Sheehan Michael – Eagle Scout Project Discussion: Sheehan was present to report that his project at Curtis Woodlands is complete and get the necessary signature from the Commission. He shared the photos of the project.

Colton Gray – Eagle Scout Project Discussion: Not present.

Lucy Meigs – CVEF & Pisgah Mtn. Mapping Proposal: Not present.

Susan Williams – tree removal at Curtis Woodlands: Sue Williams was present to report that a tree had fallen on her horse trailer in January. There are two additional trees ready to fall. The Tree Warden has looked at the situation and agrees that the trees should be taken down. The Commission agreed that the Tree Warden could remove the trees. She also expressed an interest in haying Curtis Woodlands in exchange for the hay.

Warren Herzig – discussion of Agricultural Commission and Conservation activities that may interface:

Conservation Commission is looking for assistance with management of properties that have an agricultural use, such as Deerfield Farm. Bob Melvin reported from the Budget Meeting that the lease fee received from Deerfield Farm is proposed to go into a reserve fund for maintenance of the barn and the surrounding property next fiscal year. Casey had requested input from the Agricultural Commission on Curtis Woodlands and the lower Parmelee Farm on Route 17 with regard to haying. Curtis Woodlands has been cleaned up nicely, but will grow back. Warren posed the question as to what the Conservation Commission intends – put the field to some agricultural use, brush hog it forever or let it grow up. Curtis Woodlands is not currently in great shape for agricultural use such as haying. The quality of the hay would be poor. Bob Melvin tasked the Conservation Commission members to review the Environmental Review Team report on Curtis Woodlands for recommendations by the next meeting. Casey will follow up with NRCS about Curtis Woodlands. Warren stated that the charge of the Agricultural Commission is to be an advocate for agriculture, to be an advisory to other Boards and Commissions with regard to agricultural activities and assist in conflict resolution. The Conservation Commission would like to work with the Agricultural Commission on items of common interest. Dick Porter commented that the Agricultural Commission has no budget, but are willing to assist with the management of Deerfield Farm in terms of advice and with physical work if needed. Joe Pasquale, member of the Agricultural Commission, suggested the Conservation Commission draft a list of items of interest that the Agricultural Commission could then discuss with them. He also suggested the Conservation Commission should entertain proposals for agricultural activities on open space properties.

Draft Land Acquisition Evaluation Criteria for Town of Durham based on Middletown's: This item was approved at the March meeting.

Kumar Realty, Parmelee Hill Road, subdivision review: The Commission reviewed the plan. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme, to recommend to Planning & Zoning on the Kumar Realty subdivision to provide a conservation easement for the wetlands, including both sides of Saw Mill Brook, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Request to Use White's Farm – Glastonbury Modelers: Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Terrill, to approve the request for use of White's Farm on June 27, August 22, September 9 and November 21, 2010 by the Glastonbury Modelers contingent upon appropriate insurance and indemnification submittal, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Update on Easement Review for Smith and Sawmill Tracts: Kathryn and Frederick Smith responded to the request for temporary access over their undeveloped parcel to the open space property for maintenance purposes with a denial of access.

Update on Parking Development & Lease Proposal for May 68, Lot 8: No update.

Open forum with Property Stewards – Whites Farm – Jack Stahl; Pent Road (Deerfield Farm) – Melynda Naples; Howd Road – Matt Reed; Pisgah Mountain and Creampot Valley - Christina Costas, George & Irene Roberts, Jim Smigal with BSA Troop 27 and Andy Golschneider with Venture Crew 169; Curtis Woodlands – Rob Williams & Mark Smolley; Portion of Wimler Property with Public Access – Dick Porter; and Sawmill Road – Ray Koba: Change Property Steward for Curtis Woodlands from Rob Williams to Susan Williams.

Bob Thody reported the rough-sawn lumber for bluebird houses is here. Casey Cordes distributed the Code of Ethics acknowledgement forms for members to sign. Casey also has distributed keys to gate locks to the necessary individuals.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary