

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Members present: Ralph Chase, Joe Dattilo, Rick Huntley (7:40 PM), Bill LaFlamme, Bob Melvin

Absent: Brian Ameche, Casey Cordes, Michael Doyle, Rick Terrill

Call to Order/Roll Call: Joe Dattilo at the Durham Public Library called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM. The meeting began with discussion with Paul and Colton Gray until there was a quorum.

Amendments to Agenda/Approval of May Agenda: Amend the agenda to move "Update on Eagle Scout Projects" as the first item under New Business. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bob Melvin to approve the agenda as amended, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from April Regular Meeting: Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve the April 13, 2010 meeting minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with abstentions from Rick Huntley and Joe Dattilo.

Public Session: None.

Payment of Bills: Bill submitted by Pam Huntley for \$52.50 for secretarial services. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to pay the bill as presented, made a motion. Motion passed with abstention from Rick Huntley.

New Business

Update ongoing Eagle Scout projects: Scout Colton Gray and Scoutmaster Paul Gray were present to discuss ideas for possible Eagle Scout projects. Colton was looking for ideas from the Commission to bring back to Troop 270. Commission members suggested there a several possible projects on the White's Farm, including work in the nursery and a sign identifying the trees in the memorial planting area. Joe commented on items the Commission has discussed in the past on Open Space properties. These include trails, kiosks at trailheads, possible invasive species removal at the Saw Mill Road property. Discussed work along Allyn Brook for fishing access.

Review & discussion of storm damage report from Whites farm: Bob Melvin and Joe Dattilo looked at the flood damage at White's Farm on May 2, 2010. Bob read a report of their observations. Overall, there is extensive damage because of the recent flooding. Several areas have sand and gravel deposition and the scoured areas are full of water. There are lots of scattered debris - wood and other plant material. There are several spots where vehicles have made ruts in grassy areas. Some of debris along Allyn Brook is large and requires equipment to remove it. The main road needs a lot of repair. The riprap around the culvert has been washed away. Two trees in the memorial planting area need to be removed and replaced.

Whites Farm- nursery plan: Sue White reported for Dick Porter that the nursery area has been brush hogged. It should be able to be maintained with mowing.

Blue bird box construction and location: Bart Amendola will take the lumber and get the boxes built.

Open Space

Interest in mowing opportunities: Bob Melvin reported that Warren Herzig has talked with three people about mowing opportunities. Rick Vynalek contacted Bob Melvin and wants to look at the properties to see about haying possibilities.

Draft list of areas where Agricultural Commission and Conservation Commission may interface: The Agricultural Commission is interested in interfacing in an advisory capacity.

Old Business

Update on Parking development and lease proposal for Map 68, Lot; Time Out Taverne: Joe Dattilo will request an update from Laura Francis.

Update on tree damage/ removal at Curtis Woodlands: No update.

Update on FEMA contact for Whites damage: Bob Melvin will contact Kurt Bober for an 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 Kostas, George & Irene Roberts, Jim Smigal with BSA Troup 27 and Andy Golschneider with Venture Crew 169; Curtis Woodlands – Susan Williams & Mark Smolley; Portion of Wimler Property with Public Access – Dick Porter and Sawmill Road – Ray Koba: Bill LaFlamme reported that stuff is collecting at the Dead Hill Road gate at Mt. Pisgah. There are piles of branches and some lumber.

Bob Melvin commented that priorities need to be set for the maintenance this year because of the limited budget.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley

Recording Secretary