

**TOWN OF DURHAM**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 13, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Brian Ameche at the Durham Public Library.

**Members Present:** Brian Ameche, Ralph Chase, Casey Cordes, Joe Dattilo, Bill LaFlamme, Bob Melvin, Rick Huntley

**Approval of December minutes:** Ralph Chase, seconded by Casey Cordes to approve the December 9, 2008 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Amendments to Agenda / Approval of January Agenda:** Ralph Chase, seconded by Casey Cordes to approve the agenda as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Payment of Bills:** \$22.50 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services. Casey Cordes, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve payment of the bill as presented, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Session:** None

**Site Development Plan Review - TBD:** None

**Report on Deerfield Farm:** Melynda Naples not in attendance. General discussion ensued.

**Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions - Czaja Property, Kosienki Property, Fulton Forbes Property, Flynn Property and Morrissey Property:** The Fulton Forbes property is being offered in lieu of taxes. If the Town is interested in accepting the property in lieu of taxes rather than pursuing the collection of taxes, the Commission would be willing to accept the property as open space. There is a possible use of the property for future trail access to the Blue Trail system. The Commission is interested in the Flynn property.

**Open Space Issues Reports – Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road Locks & Gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance at Deerfield Farms, Other:** The new gate pins have not been received. Brian Ameche and Casey Cordes checked on the reported ATV use, tree cutting, and path at Curtis Woodlands. It was determined that the disturbance was minor and that a letter would be sent about appropriate use of the property and that no motorized vehicles are allowed. In addition, there were complaints mentioned on the hunting lottery report cards about the ATV use on the property.

**Open forum with Property Stewards – Whites Farm – Jack Stahl; Pent Road (Deerfield Farm) – Melynda Naples; Howd Road – Matt Reed; Pisgah Mountain - Andy Golschneider with Venture Crew 169; Jim Smigal with BSA Troop 27 and Christina Costas; Creampot Valley – George & Irene Roberts; Curtis Woodlands – Rob Williams; Portion of Wimler Property with Public Access – Dick Porter; and Sawmill Road – Ray Koba:**  
None

**Chair's Report – New Business – 2008-2009 Hunting Lottery report cards; Old Business - Correspondence, Guiseppe Caturano Greenhouses, Open Space Calendar, Memorial Plantings Marker for Existing Memorial Plantings as follows: Edwin Eick – Tupelo; Jack Donadio – American Dogwood; Austin Ackerman – 3 American Hollies; Carl Otte – Sugar Maple; Frank Behrens – (TBD); Robert White – American Hornbeam; New Memorial Plantings for Roger Newton (white oak) & Charlie Wimler (TBD):** Reviewed the hunting lottery report cards that have been received. Joe Dattilo suggested tracking the wildlife that is reported on the cards from

year to year in a spreadsheet. Brian Ameche has prepared the new Commission budget for submission to the Board of Finance. The total budget is \$11,000. The breakdown is \$7,000 for the custodial services on all the properties, \$3,000 for consultants and contracts and \$1,000 for other miscellaneous items such as postage and secretarial services. Bob Melvin inquired about a reserve account. There is currently \$5,000 in a reserve fund. There is no line item for this in the Commission's budget. The Commission would need to request funding as needed for acquisitions or large maintenance items.

**2009 Meeting Schedule:** Ralph Chase, seconded by Casey Cordes to approve the 2009 meeting dates as the second Tuesday of the month meeting at the Durham Public Library except as noted, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Election of Officers:** Casey Cordes, seconded by Rick Huntley to elect the slate of officers as presented; Chair – Brian Ameche, Co-Vice Chair – Ralph Chase, Co-Vice Chair – Bob Melvin and Secretary – Bill LaFlamme, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously

**Other Business:** None

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley  
Recording Secretary