

**TOWN OF DURHAM**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 12, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM by Casey Cordes at the Durham Public Library.

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

**Approval of Minutes from April Regular Meeting and from Special Meetings for Arbor Day and Pent Road Site Walk:** Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve the April 14, 2009 minutes as distributed with one correction of the spelling of Cordes to Cordes, made a motion. Motion passed with Brian Ameche in abstention. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to approve the Special Meeting minutes as distributed with the correction of March 21 should be April 21, made a motion. Motion passed with Brian Ameche and Bob Melvin in abstention.

**Amendments to Agenda / Approval of May Agenda:** Casey Cordes requested amending the agenda to place the item 8, Open Space issues Reports/Updates before item 13, Chair's Report. Rick Huntley, seconded by Ralph Chase to approve the agenda as distributed and amended, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Payment of Bills:** Renewal of membership in CACIWC. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bob Melvin to approve renewal of membership for \$90/year to cover both the Conservation Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission for the 2009-2010 year, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Session:** None

**Site Development Plan Review:** None

**Request to use Whites Farm – CATO Rocket Club – Third Saturday of Every Month for the Remainder of 2009:** Al Gloer, CATO President was present. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme, to approve the permit request for the year 2009, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously. Appropriate proof of insurance has been provided. The dates include 4 backup dates on Sunday. Sunday activities start after 12PM. Approved dates are May 16, May 23, June 20, June 21, July 18, July 19, August 18, September 12 (earlier so as not to conflict with the Durham Fair activities), October 17, October 18, November 21, and December 19.

**Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions – Map Distribution, Flynn Property – Conservation Easement Distribution:** Nothing new to report. Casey Cordes distributed maps showing the open space property and a copy of the conservation easement that already exists (since 1988) for the Flynn property.

**Tenant Updates for Howd Road and Pent Road Open Space**

- A. Chella Bros. Payment & Insurance:** Payment has been received and they are updating their insurance certificate.
- B. Proposal from Melynda Naples to Change Terms of Lease/Payment:** Melynda Naples was present. She distributed a copy of her 2006 & 2007 tax returns for review. She distributed and discussed the improvements made/improvements planned report. Rick Huntley requested that the values associated with improvements include dates of when the work was performed and approximately how many hours and people it took to accomplish the work.

**Executive Session – Pending Legal Action:** Bob Melvin, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to enter Executive Session at 8:23PM, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion ensued. Rick Huntley, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to exit Executive Session at 9:20PM, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to empower Casey Cordes to broach the First Selectman on a plan of action in order to resolve the lease issue at Deerfield Farms and how to proceed going forward, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**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:** Nothing to report.

**Open Space Issues Reports – Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road Locks & Gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance at Deerfield Farms, Other:** See items under Chair's Report.

**Chair's Report – *New Business* – Budget Update; Markers for Memorial Tree Plantings; Work Day Scheduling – Date TBD; 2009/2010 Hunting Lottery Application Available; *Old Business* – Tree Warden's ATB Tree Planting Grant; Road Repairs at White's Farm; *Correspondence* – Update of a Contact List for Committee Members:** Casey Cordes distributed copies of the current budget. Rick Huntley, seconded by Ralph Chase, to authorize the repair of the Curtis Woodland sign, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously. Rick Huntley, seconded by Ralph Chase to authorize up to \$3000 in materials to do road repairs at White's Farm, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously. Rick Huntley, seconded by Bob Melvin, to authorize up to \$1000 to mark the location of the second gate on Cream Pot Road open space, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Bill LaFlamme is still researching types of markers for the Memorial Tree area.

The 2009-2010 Hunting Application is available with a return due date of August 21, 2009.

Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Huntley, to authorize Casey Cordes to negotiate with the Tree Warden for another location for the 20 sugar maples (America the Beautiful Tree Planting Grant) instead of the Pent Road property, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Casey Cordes distributed a draft of the letter to be sent regarding use of ATVs on Curtis Woodland.

**Close Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley  
Recording Secretary