

**TOWN OF DURHAM**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 9, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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 May Regular Meeting:** Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Rick Huntley to approve the May 12, 2009 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Amendments to Agenda / Approval of June Agenda:** Casey Cordes requested amending the agenda to place two topics under item 6, acquire 1.59-acre parcel on Wallingford Road per communication from Jay Berardino and update on Scott property on Maiden Lane. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bob Melvin to approve the agenda as distributed and amended, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Payment of Bills:** Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Huntley to approve the payment of bills as presented: \$30 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services, \$450 to Bascom & Benjamin for staking out the location for the second gate on Cream Pot Road, \$443.78 for processed stone and \$148.98 for seed and mix to the Town of Durham for repairs at White's Farm, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Brian Ameche, seconded by Ralph Chase to authorize the Chair to order a doublewide gate for the Howd Road property not to exceed \$3500, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Session:** None

**Site Development Plan Review:** None

**Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions:** Ralph Chase, seconded by Brian Ameche, to decline the offer of the 1.59-acre parcel on Wallingford Road as brought to the Commission by Jay Berardino through communication with Bill LaFlamme, made a motion. Motion passed with one abstention by Rick Huntley. Mr. Scott is working with the Connecticut Farmland Preservation Trust.

**Open Space Issues Reports/Updates – Sign at Curtis Woodlands; Motorized Vehicle Trespass at Curtis Woodland; Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road Pins & Gates, Signs, Whites Farm Update and Proposed User Group Community Forum Special Meeting – Date TBD:** Sign at Curtis Woodlands has not been repaired yet. Casey Cordes sent the letter regarding use of ATVs on Curtis Woodlands. The holes in the replacement gate pins are not big enough, even with additional drilling of the hole, to accept the lock. Ralph Chase will investigate a solution. A local neighbor blocked the CATO Rocketry Club was from using the field at Whites Farm. There was a complaint made to Town Hall about the noise level. Discussion ensued. The use of the larger loud rockets is not part of the permitted use. Laura Francis would like to hold a Community Forum for users of Whites Farm. The Commission will host the forum as an agenda item at the July regular meeting.

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

**A. Cella Bros. Payment & Insurance:** The appropriate insurance certificate has been provided.

- B. Lease Update & Extension Agreement from Deerfield Farms:** Melynda Naples will pay \$500/month for 18 months to catch up with the lease payments. An extension agreement to the current lease is being worked on.

**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:** Casey Cordes will check with Sheehan Michael on the status of his Eagle Scout project at Curtis Woodlands.

**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:** A work day to work on cleaning up the Memorial Tree area has been scheduled for July 18, 2009 from 9AM – Noon. Bill LaFlamme is still researching types of markers for the Memorial Tree area. The joint meeting with Boards and Commissions is June 15, 2009 at 7 PM in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room of Town Hall.

**Close Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley  
Recording Secretary