

REC'D: Office of the Town Clerk
November 13, 2009 at 10:47 am

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting & Joint Meeting with Agriculture Commission Minutes
Tuesday, November 10, 2009

White's Farm Wildlife – Video Presentation – Jack Stahl: A 20-minute video put together by Beth and Lora Manley was shown prior to calling the meeting to order. The video depicted 4 seasons at White's Farm.

Casey Cordes at the Durham Public Library called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

Conservation Commission Members Present: Ralph Chase, Casey Cordes, Joe Dattilo, Rick Huntley, Bill LaFlamme
Agriculture Commission Members Present: Warren Herzig, Vivian Caturano, Dick Porter, Melissa Greenbacker, Gerry Lombard, Joe Pasquale

Call to Order/Roll Call (Joint Meeting Items in BOLD): Conservation Commission and Agriculture Commission members present introduced themselves to the audience in attendance.

Amendments to Agenda/Approval of November Agenda: Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme, to accept the November agenda as distributed with the following amendments: Move White's Farm Video Presentation to the beginning and add hunting signs to the White's Farm discussion, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Geoff Colegrove – Refresher on Land Use as of Right for Agricultural Uses: The definition of agricultural use is broad. State and Federal definitions differ. He reviewed examples of agricultural activities that are permitted by right.

Request to Lease Pasture or Hayfields – Jeff Meehl, Middletown: Mr. Meehl was not in attendance.

Land Acquisition Evaluation Criteria – Discussion of Draft Criteria & Approval: There was a review of the distributed list. Geoff Colegrove mentioned seeing a similar list of criteria from another town. The commission would like to see that criteria for comparison. Rick Huntley, seconded by Ralph Chase, to table adopting evaluation criteria until the next meeting, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Request to Lease Parking Space on Map 68, Lot 8 – Gary Carmichael, Time Out Taverne: Gary Carmichael was present. He is requesting to lease the parcel on Birch Mill Road across from the Time Out Tavern to use for staff parking with 15-20 parking spaces. Geoff Colegrove feels that this may be doable. There would need to be a site plan. The parcel has not been surveyed. The wetlands should be marked, followed by a site walk. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme, to get a soil survey on the parcel on Birch Mill Road (Map 68, Lot 8) to mark the wetlands, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Session: None.

Scott Property Agricultural Easement Update: The process is still moving forward although there has been a slight delay with personnel changes within the Farmland Trust.

Cream Pot Road – New Gate Update: There is concern from a nearby property owner that the locked gate is blocking access. The gate is currently unlocked. Discussion ensued about locking/not locking the gate. The commission had a survey done prior to the placement of the gate to ensure that placement was within the open space property. Ralph Chase, seconded by Casey Cordes to keep the gate locked, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

White's Farm - Summary of Work Days, Permitting Discussion: A lot of work has been accomplished. The nursery area and the area around the turn around are done. Trees were pruned. The next steps require more planning. The property should have a review done by the Connecticut Environmental Review Team to aid with management decisions. The request for a review is in the works. John Mitchell, Durham Fair Association, requested permission to remove the stumps from the areas that have been cleared. Ralph Chase, seconded by Rick Huntley, to allow John Mitchell of the Durham Fair Association to remove stumps and re-seed the area, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously. One of the monuments set to mark the

500-foot line from a building on White's Farm property needs replacing. In addition, the line needs to be posted with the "No Discharge of Firearms" signs. Ralph Chase will set the signs.

Approval of 2010 Meeting Dates: Ralph Chase, seconded by Joe Dattilo to approve the 2010 meeting dates for the second Tuesday of the month, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

New England Scenic Trail – Nomination of Town of Durham Representative: Rick Huntley, seconded by Ralph Chase to nominate Bill LaFlamme as a representative to the New England National Scenic Trail Stewardship Council, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

DEP Wildlife – Free Rough Sawn Lumber for Bluebird Boxes: Casey will order two bundles of lumber.

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: George and Irene Roberts reported fireworks being set off at the top of Mt. Pisgah . Vehicles are going around the gates on Cream Pot Road.

Executive Session – Land Acquisition: Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to enter into Executive Session, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion ensued. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bill LaFlamme to exit Executive Session, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session – Farm Lease: Rick Huntley, seconded by Ralph Chase to enter into Executive Session, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion ensued. Rick Huntley, seconded by Ralph Chase to exit Executive Session, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary