

TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Brian Ameche at the Durham Public Library.

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

Amendments to Agenda / Approval of March Agenda: Brian Ameche requested amending the agenda to place the Election of Officers first. Casey Cordes, seconded by Rick Huntley to approve the agenda as distributed and amended, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers: Brian Ameche, seconded by Ralph Chase to nominate Casey Cordes as Chair and the remaining officers as Co-Vice Chair – Ralph Chase, Co-Vice Chair – Bob Melvin and Secretary – Bill LaFlamme, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously. Rick Huntley, seconded by Joe Dattilo to close nominations and approve the slate of officers as presented, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Casey Cordes expressed the Commission's gratitude for the years of service Brian Ameche has served as Chair. Casey highlighted some of the accomplishments during Brian's terms as Chair: Smith property addition to Saw Mill Road property, Stewards Program, ERT for the properties, rebuild barn, Deerfield Farm lease, the Wimler property, and the Arrigoni property. Bill LaFlamme mentioned the starting of the hunting lottery.

Approval of February minutes: Ralph Chase, seconded by Brian Ameche to approve the February 10, 2009 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with Rick Huntley and Joe Dattilo in abstention.

Payment of Bills: \$90 to Boudreau Welding for replacement gate pins, \$15 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services. Ralph Chase, seconded by Bob Melvin 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. The 5 year lease is up for renewal this year.

Request to use Whites Farm – Black Sheep Squadron – Annual Permit - Mark Chadsey: Bob Melvin, seconded by Ralph Chase, to approve the general annual permit request for the year 2009, contingent upon proof of appropriate insurance, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Status of Proposed Open Space Acquisitions - Czaja Property, No; Kosienki Property, District 13; Fulton Forbes Property, No; Flynn Property, Yes; and Morrissey Property, CT Water Authority: Brian Ameche and Casey Cordes attended the Board of Finance meeting to bring them up to speed as to possible acquisitions. The \$3,000 budgeted for appraisals was requested to be removed, but Brian and Casey made the case for keeping that line item funded.

Open Space Issues Reports – Dead Hill Road & Creampot Road Locks & Gates, Signs, Security, Maintenance at Deerfield Farms, Other: The new gate pins have been received. The additional gate on the Cream Pot Road side needs to be installed. Brian Ameche will follow up on the proposed location of the gate with Pat Benjamin to make sure that there are no access issues.

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: Brian Ameche heard from the Williams who had no news to report. Bob Melvin suggested having a spring walk of the open space properties. Rick Huntley suggested having property walks on Earth Day again.

Chair's Report – New Business – 2008/2009 Hunting Lottery report cards; Old Business, Correspondence, 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 - River Birch; Robert White – American Hornbeam; New Memorial Plantings for Roger Newton - White Oak & Charlie Wimler – Virginia Magnolia: A possible date for the dedication of the memorial plantings for Roger Newton and Charlie Wimler is April 25, 2009.

Other Business: Bob Melvin commented on the failed sedimentation and erosion control measure at Crooked Hill Road. Bob will talk to Laura Francis about it. Brian Ameche mentioned that the sign at Curtis Woodland is failing. There are pieces of the sign that are popping off.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary