

RECV'D: Office of the Town Clerk
September 14, 2009 at 8:37am

**TOWN OF DURHAM
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 8, 2009**

Casey Cordes at the Durham Public Library called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

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

Call to Order/Roll Call: Members present introduced themselves to the audience in attendance.

Approval of Minutes from August Regular Meeting: Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Ralph Chase to approve the August 11, 2009 minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with one abstention by Brian Ameche.

Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2009 Special Meetings: Ralph Chase, seconded by Joe Dattilo to approve the July 18, 2009 special meeting minutes as distributed, made a motion. Motion passed with one abstention by Brian Ameche.

Amendments to Agenda / Approval of September Agenda: Bill LaFlamme requested amending the agenda to move the 2009 Hunting Lottery – Issues and Administration item before the Public Session item. Bill LaFlamme, seconded by Rick Terrill to approve the agenda as distributed and amended, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2009 Hunting Lottery – Issues and Administration: Permits were executed to those present.

Public Session: None

Curtis Woodlands Eagle Scout Project Update: Ralph Chase arranged for Ronnie Stannard to brush mow the field. Mr. Stannard will also move the brush piles into one big pile for the fire department to burn.

Scott Property Agricultural Easement Update: Casey met with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to seek approval for payments associated with obtaining the easement. There was concern on behalf of the Board of Finance on the legality of the Town funding a project that the Town is not the conservation easement holder. Laura Francis consulted with the Town attorney and got a positive response to be able to proceed. Once there is approval from the Board of Finance, the proposal will go to a Town Meeting. There is a site walk planned for the property on October 3, 2009.

Brian Ameche commented on work done several years ago by Rick Terrill and former commission member Adam Moore to identify properties of interest for possible open space acquisitions, including the Scott property. They identified properties around Town that fit into various size categories. Rick Terrill has the files of properties broken down as follows, over 50 acres, 10-50 acres and under 10 acres.

White's Farm August Work Days & Permit Review Update: Ralph Chase met with the Geoff Colegrove and Dick Eriksen to do the regulatory review of the proposed work and it was determined that it is a permitted non-regulated use for the work we wanted to do. The August 22nd workday accomplished clearing the bank along Maple Avenue, cleaning out the nursery and drainage ditch that runs along the access road. The August 29th workday concentrated on the nursery. There are additional areas needing attention.

Site Development Plan Comments – Regional District 13 Athletic Field Renovations: The Commission recommended use of more pervious surfaces to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Casey drafted a letter that Ralph Chase had read into the record at the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting. The soil condition beneath the parking area is not conducive to pervious surface and is too expensive, so it was rejected.

Updates for Deerfield Farm Lease Revision & Proposed Site Walk for Drainage Issues: No updates on the lease revision. Casey suggests a site walk on Friday, September 11 at 5 PM to look at the drainage issues.

Howd Road ATB Grant Update & Recreation Committee Proposal – Sherry Hill: Town Hall received the revised grant agreement for signature. There is no information on the Recreation Committee proposal.

White's Farm – October Work Day Scheduling, Community Questionnaire, Drainage Improvements Discussion & Correspondence, Community Input: Casey received a letter dated August 13, 2009 from Mark Ellis of the Glastonbury Modelers commenting on the condition of the field with the damage from the wet weather and flooding issues. It however remains a successful field for training youth in model airplane flight. Casey scheduled additional workdays for after the fair on October 17 and October 24 from 8AM to Noon. There is a Friends of White's Farm topic on the Town of Durham's GovCast site. We need to think about drainage improvements. A management plan is needed for the property. Casey would like to collect community input, using GovCast, on the property to help with the development of a management plan. Bob Melvin commented that we have to work within the guidelines of Town ordinances, State and Federal requirements for regulated activity on the property. Casey will work with Sue White and develop a list of questions about the use of the property for the next meeting. Someone has to initiate the stream of information that would be sent if you signed up to receive emails pertaining to Friends of White's Farm.

Proposed Code of Ethics & Scheduled Hearing: Commission members should become familiar with the proposed Code of Ethics. The scheduled public hearing is September 9, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

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: Mark Smolley was introduced as an additional Property Steward for Curtis Woodlands. There were no Steward reports. Ralph Chase has put locks and pins on the gates at Dead Hill and Creampot. The 2nd gate on the Creampot side was not installed when Ralph was out. Casey received a message from Kurt Bober that the gate has been installed. Ralph will put a pin and lock on that gate. The double gate for Howd Road has not been installed.

Casey distributed new maps of the open space properties to each member. There was also a zoning map for the files. The open space map is current into 2008. Members should review the map and bring recommendations for revisions to the next meeting. Bob Melvin raised a question about whether Planning & Zoning automatically looked at flood zones and aquifer protection zones on subdivision plans and made their own evaluation or should the Conservation Commission comment on those items. The flood zones would be addressed on subdivision plans. The aquifer protection zone may not be and should be something the Conservation Commission comments on.

Payment of Bills: Rick Terrill, seconded by Joe Dattilo to approve the payment of bills as presented: \$30.00 to Pam Huntley for secretarial services, made a motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Huntley
Recording Secretary